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Former Human Rights,
Police Commissioner.

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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 41 • 9 October 1997

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

First national study of same-sex domestic violence released

by Cynthia Laird

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) unveiled the first national report on same-sex domestic violence Monday, October 6, as a part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The study shows 2,352 cases of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender domestic violence victimization during 1996 among 12 organizations that were surveyed across the country; San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan announced that locally, the filing of such cases increased by more than 50 percent in the past year.

The news conference was followed by a solidarity march from the Hall of Justice to CUAV's offices; it's believed to be the first time a district attorney has taken part in a demonstration to call attention to the issue of same-gender domestic violence.

"I'm proud the San Francisco District Attorney's Office leads the nation in extending protection under domestic violence laws to all victims," said Hallinan.

There were 533 incidents of LGBT domestic violence in San Francisco in 1996 documented by CUAV and other local groups in the report, prepared by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a coalition of 25 organizations.

Greg Merrill, director of client and advocacy services for CUAV, said that while same-gender domestic violence is a "vastly under-reported phenomenon," community resources for victims in the queer community have nearly doubled. Several organizations have either significantly expanded their capacity to serve battered LGBT people or have developed new services. Representatives from the groups were on hand Monday and spoke briefly about their organizations be-

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Demonstrators including DA Terence Hallinan (right) marched Oct. 6 from the Hall of Justice to the CUAV office to protest same-sex domestic violence.

Jane Philomen Cleland



Rick Gerhardt

Leal foe fudges credentials

by Cynthia Laird
© Bay Area Reporter

City treasurer candidate Joel Ventresca is not a "budget and policy analyst" at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), as he claims in his voter handbook ballot statement, on his resume, and in his campaign literature; he is a management assistant who does not do any budget-related work, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. Throughout the campaign for treasurer, including an interview with the *B.A.R.* last month, Ventresca has repeatedly stressed that his job as a budget and policy analyst at SFO is one of the most solid qual-

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Hormel to go de Luxe?

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco gay philanthropist James C. Hormel will be nominated by President Clinton to become Ambassador to Luxembourg, according to news reports.

Hormel's appointment would have to be confirmed by the Senate, and have the approval of right-wing Republican Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Jesse Helms.

Hormel, 64, "was not available" for comment on the appointment, according to an assistant.

The heir to the Hormel Meat Company fortune, Hormel was expected to be nominated by Clinton as Ambassador to Fiji in 1994, but his name was never forwarded to the Judiciary Committee after press reports

of the pending appointment.

Well-known for his support of Democratic Party causes, Hormel is also a major financial supporter of local AIDS and lesbian and gay service groups. In 1996, Hormel contributed \$500,000 in support of a lesbian and gay center at the New Main Library — which was later named in his honor.

Hormel is also extremely active in the Human Rights Campaign, and sits on the board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

In November, Clinton will become the first president to address a gay rights group when he speaks at the Human Rights Campaign annual fundraising dinner.

If nominated by Clinton and approved by the Senate, Hormel would be the first openly gay American Ambassador. ▶



Jim Hormel

Cynthia Laird

Rights bill under fire

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol
Correspondent

Choosing a homosexual lifestyle should not be a reason for special legal protections." With those words, Senator Richard Mountjoy, R-Arcadia filed with State Attorney General Dan Lungren for title and summary for a voter referendum on AB 257. If Governor Pete Wilson signs AB 257 into law, Mountjoy vows to lead a statewide effort to gather 433,000 signatures to bring the law before California voters in a referendum. AB 257, authored by Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles, would transfer existing job

protections for gays and lesbians from the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, where they would come into conformity with those for other protected classes such as religion, color, ethnicity, gender, and disabilities. The bill would also extend the time for filing a discrimination suit from 30 days to one year, and would add the term "sexual orientation" to the list of protected groups on all non-discrimination posters.

Despite Wilson's track record, proponents of the bill are walking on eggs in the unlikely event that he will sign the bill. Mountjoy's action is regarded in some quarters as a preemptive strike prior to the bill even being

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Royal ribbon cutting



Gregory H. Fleischer

SF Imperial Court Empress Veronda Lanai (left) wielded the shears Oct. 1 at a ribbon-cutting at the Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the SF Main Public Library while Emperor Jacques Michaels (center) and the legendary José Sarria (right) looked on. The occasion was the opening of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society's "Founding a Dynasty: José Sarria, the Black Cat and the SF Imperial Court System" exhibit at the GLC, which runs through Dec. 5.

HRC to mediate over PWA's service cuts

by Cynthia Laird

AIDS activist Michael Petrelis has received a letter from the city's Department of Public Health AIDS Office stating all parties have agreed to participate in voluntary mediation of his dispute regarding the HIV Services Partnership's decision to restrict his access to HIV services. The mediation will be led by the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

The mediation will involve representatives from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), Shanti, and AIDS Health Project (AHP), which make up the partnership.

Last month, the partnership notified Petrelis it was restricting his access to HIV services because he obtained a transcript of the SFAF client focus group meetings, which the partnership claims was a breach of client confidentiality.

Although no specific dates were listed, the October 3 letter stated that staff in the HRC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and HIV Unit will be in contact with Petrelis "within the next few days" to arrange the mediation sessions.

In another development, Petrelis told the B.A.R. that attorney Julian Lastowski has agreed to serve as his legal counsel in the matter. ▼

Calling all civilly disobedient

by Helen Voznilek

San Francisco organizers will hold a ten-year reunion this Sunday, October 12 for all those who took part in the historic civil disobedience at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987. The action, which drew thousands of supporters and saw over 700 arrests, was the largest civil disobedience on the Court's steps in U.S. history.

The massive protest featured the finest in gay sensibility and pageantry. Popularized on the steps that day was the sartorial chant directed towards the latex-gloved police officers: "Your gloves don't match your shoes, You'll see it on the news." The wildly popular "queer and present danger" shirts also made their first appearance.

Humor and brazen irreverence streamed about the steps, flagships of a movement wracked by AIDS and governmental indifference. Affinity group after affinity group joyfully awaited arrest, many urging the DC cops to stop things along.

The Supreme Court action took place two days after the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, which brought a half a million queers to the nation's capital.

National Coming Out Day is held on October 11th to commemorate this epic march.

Activists targeted the Supreme Court because of two recent rulings: one that upheld a Georgia State sodomy law, and another that upheld the U.S. Olympic Committee's right to prohibit Tom Waddell et al from using the name "Gay Olympics."

Sunday's reunion will be an opportunity to relive the golden days when C.D. was more than an auditory phenomenon, and to swap stories and memories with others. ▼

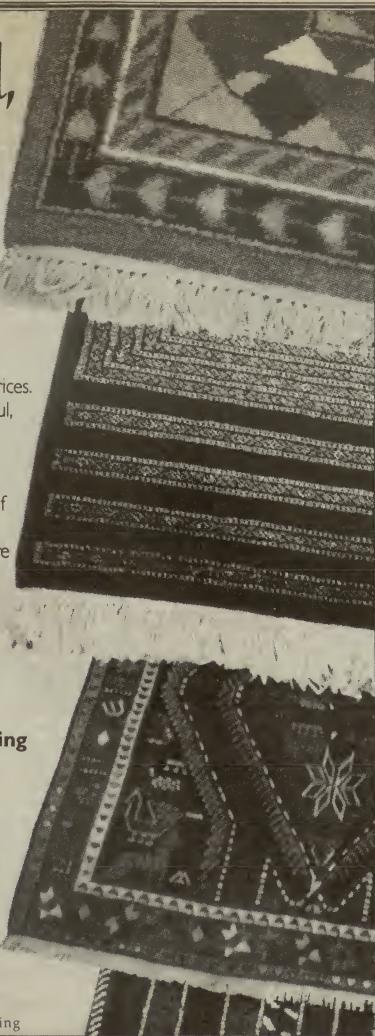
The potluck will take place on Sunday from 5-8 p.m. at the San Francisco Friends Meeting Center on 9th Street between Market and Mission. Wheelchair accessible. Bring photos, memorabilia, hopelessly exaggerated stories, etc.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Committee meeting Thursday for PWAs to discuss healthcare

AIDS Summit postponed, hearings continue

by Cynthia Laird

In preparation for Mayor Willie Brown's AIDS Summit, which has been postponed until after the first of next year, the subcommittee on adherence will hold a community forum next Thursday, October 16 at the Department of Public Health AIDS Office, located at 25 Van Ness Avenue. Interested people are encouraged to attend and provide input to the subcommittee.

Six subcommittees have been established for the AIDS Summit; each one focuses on a different aspect of the epidemic, and each is holding community meetings to gather information from people living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk in San Francisco.

Originally the summit was to

be held in December, but according to Brown's liaison to the queer community Dean Goodwin, who is among those organizing the summit, the mayor has rescheduled the event until sometime next year. A specific date has not been decided upon, Goodwin said.

One advantage to the later conference date is that the various community groups will have more time to prepare and receive input, said Goodwin.

Marcy Fraser, with the AIDS Office, said the focus of the subcommittee on adherence is to hear from PWAs about their experiences with healthcare in San Francisco. She said that people interested in attending the meeting should consider the following questions:

• What is your experience with

HIV treatment? What worked? What didn't work?

• Where do you get your information about HIV? How do you make decisions about your healthcare?

• What recommendations would you make to better be able to benefit from your healthcare treatment for HIV?

Brown is convening the AIDS Summit in response to the recent changes and emerging challenges in the epidemic. It is not meant to be an all-encompassing AIDS conference. Rather, it's an opportunity for the assembled steering committee members, who were appointed by Brown, to examine the issues, identify their components, evaluate pros and cons of potential recommendations, and propose those to the mayor at the summit.

Its recommendations will likely be implemented throughout AIDS service and prevention systems in the city, culminating in the revision of San Francisco's model of care for HIV/AIDS. ▼

The subcommittee will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the AIDS Office, 25 Van Ness Avenue, third floor conference room. For information, call (415) 554-9000.

hui
Tita

Supervisor Ammiano pipes up over SFPD PWA pot busts

by Liz Highleyman

Supervisor Tom Ammiano has called for hearings to look into the recent arrests of patients using medical marijuana. Ammiano has asked the Board of Supervisors Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee to "consider the prob-

lems and issues associated with the San Francisco Police Department's implementation of the voter-mandated Proposition 215."

Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, permits the use of medicinal cannabis. The drug is used to relieve nausea due to cancer chemotherapy, to reverse AIDS-related wasting, and to decrease the eye pressure of glaucoma.

Ammiano called for the hearings in response to several recent complaints of harassment by police of people growing or possessing cannabis for personal medical use approved by their doctors. Selling and transporting marijuana for medical purposes remains illegal under Proposition 215.

At press time, hearing dates have not been scheduled. ▼

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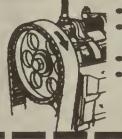
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Supervisor Leal kicks AIDS housing proposal back to Dept. of Public Health

\$200K approved by supes must be used exclusively for PWAs

by Cynthia Laird

A proposal for the \$200,000 that was earmarked by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for HIV/AIDS rental assistance has been kicked back to the Department of Public Health (DPH) because the target population was not exclusively for people living with HIV/AIDS. Supervisor Susan Leal, chair of the board's Finance Committee, said her office informed interim Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz on Monday, September 29 that the plan would have to be revised.

Katz has been out of town for the last several days but is expected to review the revised proposal soon, so that it can be heard by the board's finance committee later this month. The matter had originally been scheduled for the October 1 finance committee meeting. Norm Nickens, assistant director of the AIDS Office, told the B.A.R., "We are working on a draft."

Leal said that her office talked with Katz about the need to make the subsidy program exclusively for HIV/AIDS clients. "We'll sort things out so that people are reminded of what the board did at the finance committee. I thought

the agreement was the money would focus on the AIDS population. That's what I heard," Leal told the B.A.R.

DPH documents obtained by the Bay Area Reporter show that this latest snafu was not the first; an earlier proposal dated July 15 was also rejected by Leal because it didn't include HIV/AIDS anywhere in the plan. Instead, it was to target people "utilizing the mental health, substance abuse and criminal justice systems." Being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS was not even listed among the eligibility criteria.

Only for PWAs ... and others

The latest plan that was returned to the health department was dated September 9. This time, it was for "direct access to HIV/AIDS housing," but listed HIV/AIDS as only one of six eligibility criteria. Other people that would have been eligible for the housing assistance included those who had a history of chronic homelessness or a history of overusing emergency services; those with one or several disabilities; those who had a lack of resources to obtain and sustain market-rate housing; and those with the ability to reside in a non-institutional setting with the pro-



Susan Leal (left) chats with Mike Hanke at a New Leaf benefit Oct. 3.

vision of appropriate support services.

While all of those populations may indeed need housing assistance, Leal pointed out that the board's intent was to provide some general fund money for HIV/AIDS housing to supplement existing funds. "The program was rental subsidies for people with HIV/AIDS," she said.

As of late June, there were 3,600 people on the Centralized Housing Information and Referral Services (CHIPPS) housing wait

list, and that number has most likely increased. Of those, 2,400 people are waiting for some type of rental subsidy.

According to the Corporation for Supportive Housing and AIDS Housing of Washington, which are assisting the city with its AIDS Housing Plan update, there are 759 permanent rental subsidies in the city that are funded through various programs, not including the additional \$200,000 allocation in this year's budget. In San Francisco, there are a total of 2,500 units of permanent "low level" affordable housing targeted to peo-

ple under the age of 65; however, they are not specifically targeted to people with HIV/AIDS.

In July, when the Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee held budget hearings, \$200,000 was earmarked for AIDS housing. The money was part of \$10.4 million that the committee, chaired by Leal, reallocated from the mayor's proposed \$3.4 billion 1997-98 budget to over 40 services and programs. At the time, Health Director Dr. Sandra Hernandez told the committee that \$200,000 was adequate to supplement existing rental subsidy programs for people living with HIV/AIDS because of the city's tight housing market. Hernandez left the DPH in mid-July.

Leal said at the July 2 hearing that she understood the \$200,000 in HIV/AIDS housing subsidies was an initial allocation; given the problem of housing availability, the health department wanted to see how many people would be able to use the vouchers.

"I've had patients lose [housing] vouchers," Hernandez said at the hearing. "The low-income housing market is not there. You do reach a point of saturation, and we are getting close to that."

Hernandez recommended that DPH officials come back to the committee with a proposal and report on the availability of low-income housing. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Virginia Vida named director of SF Ethics Commission

by Cynthia Laird

Open lesbian Virginia E. (Ginny) Vida has been appointed the new executive director of the San Francisco Ethics Commission; she had been serving as acting executive director since mid-July. Commission Chair Carl L. Williams made the announcement Thursday, October 2, and said an extensive search had been conducted for the post.

Vida, a longtime advocate for social justice, has been active in the lesbian, gay, and feminist movements since the early 1970s. She joined the commission staff as an investigator and auditor in September 1995. A public servant for over 15 years, Vida served as director of the office of sexual harassment issues, an investigatory unit of the New York State Division of Human Rights, before relocating to San Francisco and joining the Ethics Commission.

The Ethics Commission was established after San Francisco voters approved a charter amendment in November 1993. The commission serves the public, city employees and officials, and candidates for public office through education and enforcement of ethics laws. It also provides open access to public records in ethics-related matters.

"The commissioners are unanimous in their selection of Ms. Ginny Vida for executive director," Williams said. "Ms. Vida



Virginia E. Vida

statements; lobbyist registration and regulation; administration of the whistle-blower program; conflict of interest reporting; investigations and enforcement; education and training; advice giving; and statistical reporting.

"I am honored to continue my service with the commission as its executive director, and am very appreciative of the commissioners' confidence in me," Vida said. "I welcome the challenge to ensure vigorous enforcement of the city's ethics-related ordinances, to educate city employees, candidates, and the public about these laws, and to assist the commission in recommending changes in public policy that will serve the public interest."

Previously, Vida served as media director of the National Gay Task Force from 1976-1980. She lobbied television networks for positive images of lesbians and gay men in programming. She also met with news directors and other national media organization executives to promote fair and accurate coverage of lesbian and gay news.

Her employment experience also includes 12 years as deputy director and lobbyist for the New York City Commission on the Status of Women, where she coordinated the commission's legislative program.

Vida is the editor of a comprehensive anthology, *The New Our Right To Love: A Lesbian Resource Book* (Simon & Schuster, 1996);

long time," he said. "I gave this company my youth. I just decided to do something else," he said.

"You know, I've never been to Europe."

The station's new owners will continue to broadcast the annual Pride Parade after it assumes ownership, Gabbert said.

"I get to do the next one," he said.

Gabbert sold radio station KOFY-AM to KNBR for \$14.5 million this week. He also owns KDIA-AM, which is up for sale as well.

During his tenure at KOFY-TV 20, Gabbert became well-known for his editorial commentary on a variety of subjects including gay and civil rights issues, and in recent years for the station's pioneering live coverage of the annual Pride parade. ▼



Jim Gabbert

annual revenues of between \$18-20 million, will change hands in July, Gabbert told the Bay Area Reporter.

"I've been on the air in San Francisco for 40 years. That's a

Jim Gabbert dunks his KOFY

by Dennis Conkin

After 17 years as an independently owned television station, KOFY-TV Channel 20, which broadcasts the annual San Francisco Pride Day parade, has been sold by openly gay owner James Gabbert to Granite Broadcasting Company.

Final approval of the station's sale must come from the Federal Communications Commission.

Granite, which also owns KNTV-Channel 11 in San Jose, had estimated 1996 revenues of \$155 million and was ranked seventh among black-owned industrial and service companies by *Black Enterprise* magazine, according to a *San Francisco Examiner* report.

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the book was first published as *Our Right To Love* in 1978. Vida has a bachelors of arts degree in English from the University of Illinois, and a masters of arts degree in English linguistics from New York University.

Williams said the commission interviewed eight top contenders for the job. All five of the commissioners reviewed every resume that was submitted, he added. ▼

The Ethics Commission usually meets the second Monday of the month. Because of Columbus Day, its next meeting will be Tuesday, October 14.

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OPEN FORUM

Someone to treasure

This year's election is hardly the most exciting we've ever seen. There's no rock-'em-sock-'em national or statewide race to get the adrenaline fired up, and none of the ballot measures are the kind that inspire giant rallies and get-out-the-vote drives.

Although we can usually do without the verbal violence that frequently accompanies elections, we also wonder if the lack of fireworks this year will cause even more citizens to abrogate their voting duties than usual. That would be a shame, because there is an extremely important race to be decided, one that is more than significant enough for everyone to shake off their torpor and get to the polls this November 4.

We speak, of course, of the only contested race, for the office of treasurer.

Among the three candidates, Supervisor Susan Leal stands out as the obvious choice for numerous reasons. She is by far the best qualified, most experienced, and most proven, but that only tells half the story; we don't want to imply that lesser-known candidates should automatically lose races (everyone has to build experience somewhere). More than her solid background, Leal has proven time and again she is a woman who can be trusted.

This week we discovered that candidate Joel Ventresca has been ... um ... inflating his qualifications, as Cynthia Laird reports on page one. Although he has been describing himself throughout the race as a budget and policy analyst – actually, "Budget and Policy Analyst," with the initial caps indicating that it is some sort of official job title – he is in fact a management assistant. Is there a distinction? We certainly think so.

Obviously Ventresca puffed up his job title to imply to San Franciscans that he holds the qualifications necessary to handle the city's \$2,500,000,000 investment portfolio and oversee tax collection. Both aspects of the treasurer's job require integrity and trust, and we fear he's already shown his mettle there.

Ventresca has misinformed potential voters about exactly what he does, which makes us extremely leery about trusting what he intends to do. Also, his job duties as they now stand have nothing whatever to do with budgetary matters – he claims to have done such work in the past, but we naturally distrust those who intentionally mix "previous experience" with "occupation" on their resumes. Or on their ballot statements.

Leal, on the other hand, has proven herself to be a woman of her word. Her tenure as a city supervisor has been exemplary, highlighted by her stewardship of a committee that managed to find over \$10 million in "excess funds" – fat, really – that eventually got reallocated to nearly 40 essential community services. Her hard work resulted in improvements for all citizens, ranging from cleaner sidewalks in the Tenderloin to family day care to \$200,000 in AIDS housing money.

And, being a woman of her word, Leal stuck to her guns again recently when the Department of Public Health tried (*for the second time*) to siphon off some of that \$200,000 for non-AIDS-related housing subsidies. As we report on page four, Leal sent the newer proposal back to the DPH

and let them know in no uncertain terms the money was supposed to be used for its intended purpose. (By the way, shame on Dr. Mitch Katz for trying to take that money away from a PWA program – this is a man who has headed the AIDS Office since 1992; what will it take to make him understand the epidemic requires more housing money, rather than governmental interference in people's sex lives? But we digress...)

Investing the city's billions of dollars is no small matter, nor is it one that voters should take lightly.

As Leal told us last month, "The bottom line is to invest the city's money to make the best return with low risk, because we need that money so we can spend it on essential services in this city."

We urge you to vote for Susan Leal for treasurer on November 4. ▼

Editorial

Susan Leal scours the Castro/Market area for potential votes Oct. 6.

Gregory H. Fleischer

God through gay eyes

by Dr. Rembert Truluck

When I was a student at Furman University, we had an annual "religious emphasis week" when famous spiritual leaders would come to lecture, preach, and hold discussion groups with the students. The best speaker that we ever had was a Southern Baptist pastor who related well with the students and applied his message to the real needs of people. Many years later, when I was living in Atlanta and attending the Metropolitan Community Church, I learned that this particular pastor was gay.

The hypocritical and unhealthy religious abuse of gay and lesbian people by Southern Baptists and other evangelicals is now dominating American culture, where every week is somebody's "religious emphasis week." The Promise Keepers meeting of hundreds of thousands of men in Washington, DC last weekend, and the current Billy Graham Crusade in the Bay Area are vivid reminders that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are increasingly under attack by the religious establishment.

As an openly gay Christian minister, a graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville with two master's degrees and a Doctor of Theology degree, a writer of Southern Baptist Bible study literature, a former Southern Baptist pastor and college religion professor, and as the former pastor of Golden Gate MCC in San Francisco and of MCC Nashville, I feel

that I have a responsibility to God and to my homosexual brothers and sisters to respond to distortions of the Bible and perversions of the gospel of Jesus Christ that have become daily weapons of judgment and rejection against us.

This article, like my website and my forthcoming book, *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*, are intended as weapons to fight back in our war with religious terrorists who attempt to hold hostage the sexuality and spirituality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual people.

On the basis of my own years of study and teaching the Bible, I can assure you that the Bible nowhere says that gays and lesbians can or should change their sexual orientation. In fact, there is no word for "homosexual" in the original Hebrew and Greek languages of the Bible. The concept of sexual orientation did not exist in the Bible, and did not begin to develop anywhere until less than a hundred years ago. The parts of the Bible used against gays are twisted out of context, translated wrong, and perverted to use as weapons to hurt and destroy people of the same sex who love each other. All of this is a direct rejection and contradiction of the spirit and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, whom the religious preachers of homophobia claim to follow.

According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the leading cause of

death of gay and lesbian teenagers is suicide, the rate of suicide of gay men is three times the national average, and the rate of suicide of gay men with AIDS is 60 times the average. Homophobic fundamentalists have told me that being gay makes people depressed. They are wrong. Gay and lesbian people are not depressed because they are gay, but because of how we are treated by religious people who think that they are serving God by attacking and condemning us!

One problem is the closet. The rest of the world does not see the terrible toll of suffering, pain, and death that homophobia inflicts on the homosexual community. If the reality of horrors that are caused by homophobia could be

shown on nightly television news, like flaming freeway wreckage of mangled bodies, destroyed lives, pain, agony, loneliness, suicide, hell on earth and death, and be shown in the faces of the gay children, family and friends of those watching, it might make a great difference in how most people hear the lies of the "religious right," which is neither! ▼

Guest Opinion

Dr. Truluck is the author of *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*, which will be published this fall by Chi Rho Press. He may be contacted at rembert@slip.net, and has a Web site at <http://www.truluck.com>.

LETTERS

Bait-and-switch

I have just learned that the Board of Directors of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center voted to demolish the 103-year-old Victorian at 1800 Market. I originally supported the project when the site was acquired because the Victorian was stated to be preserved, but now feel that we have been duped with a bait-and-switch fundraising scheme. I felt that the preserved Victorian very much symbolized San Francisco and the contribution of our community to the City's successful preservation efforts.

Before purchase of the site, I would assume the Board had professional inspections of the building, a normal procedure before purchase of any real estate. These inspections would then confirm the viability of renovating the existing building for the Community Center (which was then publicized as the plan). An extensive architectural competition was then held based on this preservation assumption.

What changed? If the inspections of the structure took place, and the reports are in error, should we reconsider the site? Current donors and future donors deserve an explanation. The Center should not symbolize thoughtless demolition.

I urge the community to ask for satisfactory answers from the Board before contributing any more funds to this project.

Bruce Muncil
San Francisco

Bean-counter architecture

I would like to register my sadness over the decision by the Community Center Project's Board of Directors to demolish their "handsome" Victorian building, which they had previously pledged to preserve.

This decision, if I understand their statement, is based on "fiscal responsibility." How sad that a 103-year-old building, which is almost virtually intact, should fall because some unimaginative bean-counters say that it is too expensive to save. At the same time this fiscally responsible board promises a "spectacular new architectural statement."

So what is the board saying? Could it be, Old Victorian - Bad! Spectacular New Architectural Statement - Good! Well, excuse me, but a board that is blind to the architectural merits of the still-standing Victorian and its worth not only to its immediate neighborhood but to the city of San Francisco is incapable of producing a project that anyone gay, lesbian, bi, transgendered or otherwise could possibly be proud of.

I hope that this misguided decision will be reversed by a tide of opinion by people from our community who would prefer a CCP that celebrates both the old and the new. This is San Francisco, after all.

Stephen Lomicka
San Francisco

Save the Victorian

As long-time residents and homeowners in the Mint Hill area, we want to express our sadness, disappointment and anger on learning of the Gay Community Center Project Board of Directors' recent decision to demolish the Victorian building at 1800 Market St.

This is the only significant piece of Victorian architecture surviving anywhere along the Market Street corridor. Those who would destroy it appear to be oblivious to San Francisco's architectural heritage and the battles waged over the past 30 years to keep that history intact. It is a sad irony that members of the gay community have always been in the forefront of those efforts.

At the public meeting preceding the Board's decision, one member of the Board said "community input" was sought during the planning stages. However, neither the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association nor the Mint Hill Neighborhood Association have ever received information about this project. Furthermore, the public input at that meeting was overwhelmingly in favor of preservation. The Board clearly chose to ignore that input.

Even if the original plan to incorporate the Victorian into the new community center is not financially feasible (and we are not sure that is the case), we feel the Board should explore alternative sites and entrust the property to a buyer with the resources and dedication to preserving it.

We the undersigned plan to support any and all efforts to save the building. If those efforts are unsuccessful, we will no longer support the Center's fundraising activities, such as the upcoming dance at the Galleria.

Preservation may cost more money, but it is a community responsibility and has made San Francisco unique among American cities.

Ken Duchscherer, David Stein,
Ted Peterson, Warren Hinds,
Michael Rallo, Peter Gudd, Bill Traver
San Francisco

Other benefits to razing

[The following was sent to the board of directors of the Community Center Project:]

As a member of the gay community and supporter of the Community Center Project, as well as a practicing architect, I am writing to address the controversial issue concerning the removal of the existing Victorian building on the Community Center Project site.

The original intention stated within the competition program, to retain and rehabilitate the existing Victorian structure, was a reasonable and smart decision. This was based upon governmental and community input, coupled with the limited knowledge of the building and site conditions at the start of this process. As is common with any building project, more information becomes available in a timely sequence as the project progresses.

As I understand the current situation, analysis of the site soil conditions and in-depth investigation of the existing building has revealed some valuable information that must be considered to determine a sound architectural design and structural engineering direction.

Due to poor soil conditions and the extremely dilapidated condition of the building, the costs for stabilizing and rehabilitation of the existing structure appear to be unproportionately high, given the overall project budget. Serious consideration must be given to the idea of removing the existing structure from the site. In the event that the existing structure is removed, several issues emerge that have direct beneficial implications to the project.

First, the project budget can be held in line with current project cost projections. Also, the construction dollars will be used more efficiently by allowing the structural system of the new center to be of one type of construction.

Secondly, the building area allowed by the code can be increased if the building is constructed from a higher rated construction type than the existing building, which is Type V, wood frame.

This will result in a much more efficient building program and design, which should maximize the construction dollars which have been donated by the community.

A future benefit may be lowered maintenance costs for the facility, plus reduced insurance rates for the higher rated construction techniques and fire-rated materials that can be incorporated into the design and engineering of a totally new building.

I urge the board of directors to give serious consideration to the items I have mentioned and proceed in a direction that will best achieve the final goal, construction of a community center that is a strong design statement for the community and is constructed within the reasonable budget that has been established for this project.

Larry Friesen
San Francisco

Libertine

"Beth is *libertarian*," says the B.A.R., "which only shares the first three [sic] letters with *liberal*." [Sept. 25]

Baloney faux! These two types of libertarians share deep political and historical kinships—along with the five-letter Latin word *liber*, meaning "free."

In British, Australian, and New Zealand English, the terms overlap—as they did in US English before FDR's New Deal.

The Oxford English Dictionary traces political usages of *liberal* back to 1801; *libertarian* to 1878; and *libertist* to 1887.

Anarcho-capitalists and libertarian socialists alike, of all genders, are welcome to join the Association of Libertarian Feminists (PO Box 20252, London Terrace, NYC, NY 10011).

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Friday on the firing line

In response to Mr. John Dolan [Mailstrom, Sept. 25]: Reading lessons in most cases are free. I offer this information so that you may increase your reading skills.

There are times I do not agree with Mr. Wayne Friday's political views. However, I enjoy his informed, unbiased, and sometimes humorous commentary.

I find your suggestion that Mr. Friday be terminated as political editor for the ludicrous statement in your letter, I quote, "His comments on Princess Diana were embarrassing." We all felt the loss of the Princess.

Your letter suggesting Mr. Wayne Friday's termination, in my very biased opinion, was at the very least ridiculous.

Fire Mr. Wayne Friday? I think not.

Donna Lisa Stewart
San Francisco

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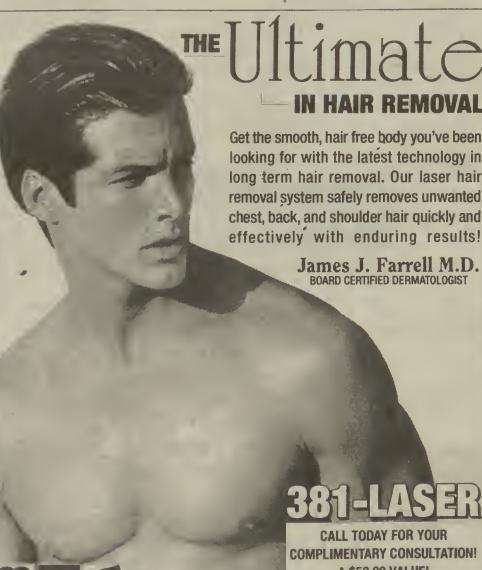
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Keeping the faith at MCC/SF

As someone who has been attending MCC/SF for a year now, I was interested in reading the 9/24 letter in which the writer accused MCC/SF of being money-hungry and having little social conscience.

What turned me off most about his letter was the lack of personal responsibility he took in regards to the issues he was judging the MCC on. While I'm the first to agree that kvetching and whining are important social skills for us lesbians and gays, rarely have I seen these methods effect any positive, lasting change!

Having worked with several nonprofit organizations, I believe that "If you're not part of the solution, maybe you're part of the problem!" Real change demands commitment and work - qualities from which the writer seems to consider himself exempt. If he could have talked about, say, an example where one of his efforts to assist the needy of our community was thwarted by those "money changers in the temple," I'd have been more sympathetic to his cause. And speaking of cause, what exactly is his, anyway? The letter smacked of someone with a hidden agenda. If that's the case, it would have been swell of him to have shared the real scoop with us readers, or better yet, just called his therapist. (Maybe he's really the Pope! Come on, you can tell us!) His claim to have written his letter out of "love" momentarily triggered my gag reflex. With love like this, who needs ex-lovers?

MCC-SF does "good deeds" in the community. I have been witness to them. They are done with modesty and without fanfare. The MCC focuses a great deal of energy and resources on being "A House Of Prayer For All People." As a lesbian who has experienced her share of hatred and discrimination from some of the supposedly most "upright" and "honest" religious organizations around, I am very grateful to have finally found a church that both acknowledges and addresses the spiritual needs of lesbians, gay, bisexuals, transgendered and HIV people. Our community has been under-served, if not shunned, by most religious institutions. Helping individuals work on finding their spiritual paths and healing themselves is work that is certainly nothing to sneeze at.

The ministry team of MCC-SF consists of women and men who possess a level of skill and commitment that I find exceptional. I've heard some of the most inspirational and educational messages of my adult life sitting in those services, all free for the taking.

I was truly puzzled by the writer's frustrations around MCC not being an "orthodox" Christian church. So what's up with that? I mean, "Hello, you're a queer! You're in the Castro!" I thought that sort of automatically put us in the "non-conventional" category, but maybe it's just me! The day MCC-SF becomes "upright and orthodox" is the day that this dyke's ass will be bolting from the pew! However, if the writer is needing a conventional church, I know of a certain evangelist who would just love to make his acquaintance.

My hats off to MCC/SF. Keep up the good work and oh, keep the faith. Even Jesus opened to mixed reviews, and just look at him now!

Monica Grant, aka
Goddess on a Payroll
Pacifica, CA

It's a miracle

MCC San Francisco is a church made up of members and non-members, all of whom are on a spiritual journey. We come together in this space to learn about spiritual issues, be inspired, and worship a Higher Power as we perceive It. Our stained glass window in the sanctuary symbolizes the many different religions that are in the world: Christianity, Judaism, Paganism, Buddhism, etc.

Our church is run by volunteers. The congregation gives money and the volunteers hold fundraisers so that we may pay the church employees and the expenses associated with running it. As far as our budget is concerned, we're usually in the red. It's a miracle (ha ha) that we are able to do as much as we do. Our employees are not in it for the money; they could make a lot more elsewhere. They are there because they are incredible people dedicated to our community and to advancing people's spirituality.

What have I realized after attending MCC-SF? Our version of Christianity is a lot different from the one I grew up with. God is about love, not guilt. There is a God and a Goddess. It's okay to be gay, lesbian, straight, or whatever and be a Christian at the same time. The Bible is filled with great truths, but there are a lot of politically motivated additions that have nothing to do with Christianity as Jesus taught it. A blatant example of this is oppression of women. Christianity has many names. (Spiritual) home is not where you leave, but where you come back to.

Free of charge, three times a day on Sunday, and Wednesday evenings, anyone can come and worship, listen, pray, and sing. If people can give money to support our church, we gladly accept it. If they cannot afford to, we understand. Either way, this spiritual resource is here for us, a house of prayer for all people.

Sam Ferguson
San Francisco

Catholic Charities' compliance

Cynthia Laird's article on the recent S.F. Health Commission hearing with Catholic Charities neglected to mention that Catholic Charities was not the only agency being questioned about diversity compliance. It seems only fair to state that at recent hearings, both the Oakes Children's Center and Edgewood Center for Children and Families were questioned about compliance issues and asked to develop plans to bring their boards into compliance.

With respect to Catholic Charities' policy of not requiring its board members to disclose their HIV status or sexual orientation, it seems as though this policy respects those individuals' constitutional right to privacy, and there are Federal laws specific to disclosures of this nature in the workplace.

Most telling is that there was no mention of the scope and quality of the services being provided by Catholic Charities. For over 12 years, this agency has been one of the largest providers of HIV services in the Bay Area. Being singled out unfairly in this manner does nothing to support Charities in this work, as it may erode the confidence of potential clients who are in need and would benefit greatly for the services provided. Please keep in mind that the common goal is to help those in need.

I am sure that these compliance issues will be worked out. Other agencies have been able to do so without having to endure the glare of biased, sensationalist media coverage. It seems to me that we ought to be looking for positive solutions to complex problems such as these, rather than spend much time and energy undermining the efforts of dedicated service providers (even if it makes good front-page copy).

Christian Iriarri
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Workplace disclosure laws are not applicable to board members. And we'd be just as happy to see "Catholic Charities is queer enough for the supes" as front-page copy, if only it were true.]

A gift from God

The Roman Catholic Bishops did a good thing. They called for families to love their gay/lesbian children. They called for love and compassion, and an end to hate.

Prophetic voices must persist in "barking like dogs" at the heels of Bishops, clergy, and laity of all churches. They must stand up and say, "Genital sex between people of the same sex is not a sin, but a gift from God to a portion of the people in the creation."

Nothing short of that will stop the barking.

Robert Warren Cromey
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
San Francisco

Not fair coverage

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought your paper reported happenings within the San Francisco gay/lesbian community. After reading through today's paper, however, it would seem your policy has shifted.

I am referring to your almost total lack of coverage of last Sunday's Folsom Street Fair. Page one featured a picture and one line about the fair under a headline about the upcoming Castro Street Fair. There were five paragraphs mixed in with talk about the Castro Fair and Pat Christen in your editorial, and two small paragraphs in Mr. Marcus's column about the fair mixed in with other goings-on of the week.

Is it that you do not consider the Folsom Street Fair newsworthy, or is it that you are reluctant to give much, if any, coverage to events that involve the gay/lesbian leather and S&M community?

I expected to see more coverage of the fair in the B.A.R. than the Examiner. Such was not the case, however.

Phil Payton
San Francisco

[Size isn't everything. But for those who are obsessed with it, the story about the Folsom Street Fair we printed the previous week was 42 meaty column inches long. Uncut. And with a great big head.]

One clear demand

[The following was sent to members of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation:]

As a stakeholder in the business of the Foundation, and with concern over the Foundation's mission, future, and liabilities, I have one clear demand to state that, at this time, takes precedence over all others.

Make her resign and send her away with a severance package, or fire her, but do it now.

Luke Adams
Oakland, CA

Send letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco 94103. Please keep them legible, original, short, signed, and honest.

POLITICS

Once again... Pete Wilson!

by Wayne Friday

For all those Republican presidential hopefuls thought that California Governor **Pete Wilson's** abortive run for the White House (it lasted all of 32 days) in 1996 meant that he was out of the picture for 2000, they would do well to think again. Wilson, with less than 15 months left in Sacramento, spoke to the Western States GOP Leadership Conference in Reno this past weekend and stated flatly (for the first time) his desire to run again for the presidency.

One of the governor's closest aides confided to reporters this week that "it's almost inevitable he will do it." Indeed, political operatives in Iowa, New Hampshire, and a few other early primary states already have pro-Wilson strategists quietly setting up groups dedicated to promoting a Wilson in 2000 effort. Iowa state Senator **Jack Rife**, a longtime Wilson loyalist, confirmed to the *LA Times* this week that he had discussed a Wilson run with the governor and that "he told me he was ready to go."

Although some have been quick to label Wilson a has-been, don't count him out just yet. Pete Wilson would likely go into the Republican Convention with California's large delegate bloc firmly in his pocket, an important factor in any candidate's success. In addition, the governor, despite his disastrous 1996 candidacy, can be expected to raise money easily, and his "moderate" stance should play well against the likes of **Jack Kemp**, **Dan Quayle**, Sen. **John Ashcroft**, **Fred Thompson**, etc. These other presidential wannabes have signaled they will run as anti-abortion, anti-gay, right-wing candidates, darlings of the growing Christian Fundamentalist Republican Movement.

Many believe that the current front-runner for the 2000 GOP nomination is Texas Governor **George Bush Jr.**, but he, too, is expected to appeal to the far right for support, which would likely leave the so-called moderate Republican vote to Wilson. While far from being a liberal (or even a moderate, for that matter), all things being relative, Wilson can probably lay claim to the middle-of-the-road GOPers at the convention.

Given all the above, California's governor must be considered a real contender for his party's nod three years hence. Winning the nomination, however, might prove tough going for Wilson, since his party is clearly in the clutches of the religious right. Pete Wilson is on record as being pro-choice but anti-affirmative action. Finding delegates within the Republican Party who are pro-choice but oppose affirmative action should be fun.

Also, Wilson is only a so-so debater, and he has tended to duck the tough issues. In fairness, the 1996 debacle was partially due to his throat surgery; he could barely speak aloud for three months. ("It's the last time I'll have surgery at a place called 'Tonsils R Us.'

How was I to know the surgeon was a Dole delegate?" Wilson joked.)

Governor Wilson undoubtedly will spend the next year-and-a-half working to get **Dan Lungren** elected as his replacement (though those close to both say there is little love lost between the two), so that he has the California delegation squarely behind him come convention time. Plus, he'll be lining up some very important support among Republicans across the country. Clearly, Pete Wilson is not through with public life and is gunning for one more shot at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Politics and Promise Keepers

Move over, **Pat Robertson!** Step aside, **Lou Sheldon!** There's a new group in town, Promise Keepers, with a new leader, former college football coach **Bill McCartney**. McCartney admits that his intentions include an "army" that most feel will be remarkably akin to that ultraconservative organization we all know as the Christian Coalition.

While spending much of the past weekend at the group's religious revival in DC denying any "political motivation," McCartney appeared on *Meet the Press* to announce that "of course, I'd run for president" if God advised him to do so. Coach Bill used that same television opportunity to proclaim that "the sin of homosexuality cannot be excused." He also soundly condemned abortion in any form.

While some feminist groups (notably NOW) labeled the Promise Keepers as nothing more than a "Trojan horse" for the religious right, McCartney and other leaders (who wouldn't release the names of most of their speakers) insisted that the Oct. 4 gathering of nearly 300,000 men was meant to "make better fathers, husbands and men" of those assembled. McCartney, a registered Republican and PK founder, insisted that the Promise Keepers would "avoid politics" as best it could, but didn't deny possible "religious political activism" in the future.

A *Washington Post* poll at the revival found that 46 percent of Saturday's participants considered themselves Republicans; 15 percent Democrat; and 28 percent identified as "independents." Nearly 70 percent said they were either "conservative or very conservative." Though the haul from the weekend event was reported to be "disappointing," the PK has taken in \$12 million since 1990. Here's hoping that God (or any other deity in this case) doesn't "advise" Bill McCartney to run for president ever.

But we could have told him that! Former President **George Bush** reportedly writes in an upcoming bio that "I blew it" when he chose Dan Quayle as his running mate in 1988.

The *Ex* recently named **Pia Hinckle** (Warren's daughter) as its new business editor, and a smart choice it was. She's a talented journalist and a hell of a nice



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G.I. Janes



Lois Pearlman

Contestants at the River Business' Sept. 27 "G.I. Jane Contest" cuddle while awaiting their turn on stage. These military minxes were busy enjoying the festivities at the annual Women's Weekend in Guerneville, even if Demi Moore was nowhere to be seen.

Rock around
the block party

by Beth Elliott

A long, long time ago, cartoonist R. Crumb did a tiny strip in which the cut-bald Schuman the Human said, "Say, everybody, why don't we all stop playing ego games right now!" After a couple of panels of said folks milling about, Schuman said, "Wow, now wasn't that a great idea...OOPS!" What brought that bit of trivia to mind? Recent happy encounters with "diversity" Oakland-style: just a bunch of folks who "look like Oakland" hanging out and matter-of-factly having a good time, giving no thought to their ethnic mix, much less giving lip service to anyone's notion they're supposed to be mingling this way. It's just my old principle of planned obsolescence for activists: you haven't really made a change until people take it for granted and there's no congratulating going on.

One of these fun times was the East Bay Gay Mardi Gras, held in Preservation Park off downtown on one of the most searing Indian Summer days of this hot year. It was all the fun — and had all the variety — of San Francisco's Pride Day hoohah without the oppressive crush of people. Even with the much smaller venue and crowd, there were still three stages full of local talent ("girls with guitars" the Wild Angels, soulful baritone balladeer Shiloh Unruh), plus a thump-thump music dance area; the only thing missing from the big San Francisco Pride crowd was the attitude.

Finding a place to get out of the sun or off one's feet was occasion for exchanging pleasantries with a stranger of any color. Yes, this was a "community" event in the true sense, the neighborhoodly sense. Groups like Alameda's Out on the Island had tables for inviting folks to get-togethers right where they live, and you knew all those strangers at whom you were smiling most likely lived near you in the East Bay. It was successful enough to go annual, and I hope it does.

Of course, for friendliness and hominess it would be hard to beat a block party, and the revival of Hanover Avenue's annual gathering certainly met the requisite "diversity" criterion ... for those

what likes to measure such things. We don't make a big deal about being a well-integrated block; we just water the lawns or drought-resistant plant gardens, wave and smile to each other, and feel happy to live among friendly neighbors who keep an eye out for each other. After loading a plate with selections from barbecue, chilies rellenos, and dairy-free veggie casseroles, I sat down to nosh with some of my many lesbian neighbors.

One of the block's African-American families (I'm including the multiracial families here) lives in the one house with the proverbial white picket fence. When I remarked to Mom in her tie-dye that I didn't see the kids in the yard quite as often, she said they're involved in more organizations now.

"So you're playing soccer mom?" I asked.

"Yeah, I'm always schlepping them somewhere or other," she replied. Let's see ... that's a sistah in tie-dye using "schlep" in a sentence; that has to be good for lots of multiculti bonus points ... if we cared. Up the road in Berkeley, they talk about it and pat themselves on the back for being so "progressive"; here in Oaktown, we don't bother — we just have fun together.

The reason I'm bringing this up is not just to give props to the East Bay community for its parties, or to note that people can get together in harmony in real time (as opposed to agenda time), but because these events stand in such contrast to one of our lesbian pioneer's putting her foot in her mouth when she had an accomplishment to celebrate. In other words, why, oh why, did Ellen DeGeneres have to spoil the triumph of the Emmy her show won for writing ("The Puppy Episode") by saying the award was "a recognition of diversity"?

Here's the deal: Emmies are awarded for excellence — excellence above all other shows — and Ellen's coming-out episode was publicly praised for its excellence without its lesbian-positive content putting it at a competitive disadvantage. But to hear Ellen

DeGeneres speak, you'd think the award was for Miss Congeniality — something that hadn't been won but was given her anyway so no category of people would go away empty-handed. Ellen devalued her own show's accomplishment — not to mention the gift of spin, the subtext for television watchers that gay-themed shows can be worthwhile viewing for straight audiences. She was a winner who

did her damndest to make sure she came across as a loser, as an unworthy nominee coming away with a "gift" recognition.

This, of course, is the politically correct way: to believe creative works materialize in thin air and land on lucky people at random, rather than being crafted through individuals' talent,

aspiration and hard work. Awards, then, should be downplayed lest anyone think the recipient thinks she did something creative better than anyone else — that would imply it's not true that all people are equally talented, that creative works that suck are actually just as beautiful and profound, only in different ways. Yeah, right.

Ya know, I think Ellen would have won a lot more admiration for herself — and opened more doors for lesbians in general — if she'd have let people see her pride in her accomplishment; she certainly sweated and agonized over her prime-time coming out. People love seeing someone overcome heavy odds and show the exhilaration of their triumph. What Ellen gave them was easily recognized as rhetoric. It made her appear less human, and her show appear less a very creative yet whimsical comedy than the calculated propaganda piece the "Ellen Degeneres" bashers labeled it.

Since when is being human something of which to be ashamed? Achievement, and thrilling at one's achievement, are uniquely human. Doesn't diversity also mean celebrating individual accomplishment? Without individual accomplishment, we're all the same ... and the best in us is but our lowest common denominator. ▼



Sapphic

MEDIA ALERT

CNN confuses gay male erotica with child pornography

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

An otherwise well done September 30 CNN report on an Internet sting of 1,500 suspected child pornographers needlessly attached adult gay male erotica to the story, perpetuating myths and stereotypes of gay men as predators of children. The report stated that New York Attorney General Dennis Vacco "said one of the most frightening things about the widespread child pornography is that many of the pictures appear to be recent, not old pictures just now surfacing on the new medium."

It continues, "A demonstration at the news conference showed just how freely pornography flows over the Internet. Within 10 minutes, investigator Michael McCartney — using an e-mail address that kept his identity secret — was in contact with someone who emailed him a picture of an adult male having sex with an adult male. McCartney called the images he saw during the child pornography sting 'so horrific' that they kept him awake at night."

Without any apparent relevance to the story, the discussion of adult male erotica distribution via the Internet during a discussion of child pornography blurs the profound difference between the two. While some criticism lies with the investigator for trying to illustrate the ease of accessing child pornography by instead accessing gay erotica during the news conference, CNN chose to emphasize the same-sex nature of the accessed photos.

For CNN to highlight gay erotica in its report without explicitly articulating its lack of relevance to the crime of child pornography fuels the flames of ignorance and bigotry towards

gay men. Study after study have shown that over 99 percent of all child molesters are heterosexual men, and the connection implied between gay men and child porn in this story is both misleading and offensive.

To let CNN know that regardless of whether homo-ignorance or homophobia allowed this to happen, reporters and editors must be made more aware of the damaging influence such an anti-gay association can have on our community, contact Rick Kaplan, President, CNN, P.O. Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366, fax: 404.827.4063, e-mail: cnn.feedback@cnn.com, feedback form: www.cnn.com/feedback.

Court TV gets domestic

On October 6 at 9 a.m. Eastern time, Court TV will highlight domestic partnership on its informative, casual legal show Legal Cafe. Between commentary on the legal aspects of domestic partnership and same-sex couples being denied the legal right to marry, the show includes a number of taped segments featuring a lesbian couple. The couple speaks frankly about having to negotiate finances and legal issues with the commitment of a married couple, but without the same legal safeguards. The segments highlight the loving relationship between the women, includes a discussion about coming out, and features home movies of their commitment ceremony last year.

Please check out Legal Cafe and let Court TV know what you think about this show. Contact: Erik Sorenson, Executive Producer, Court TV, 600 3rd Avenue, New York, NY 10016, fax: 973.3355, feedback form: www.courtvtv.com/contact.

Ru and improved

On October 2, on the always fun and flamboyant *RuPaul Show* on VH-1, Ru introduced the audi-

ence to his family. First the show featured footage of RuPaul performing at a large family reunion. Then RuPaul brought out his three sisters and father, and they reminisced about his childhood and his deceased mother. When RuPaul asked one of his sisters what she would do if her son asked if he could be a drag queen "just like his Uncle Ru," she responded, "I'd say 'Let's go to Patricia Field,'" a New York shop that caters to drag queens.

Since the show was revamped in July for its second season, the *RuPaul Show* has seen the host reveal his more outrageous side, with the biting humor of a drag queen, his open expression of his sexual orientation, and a stronger sense of camp. In doing so, VH-1 has a stronger, better program on its hands, showing once again, just as with *Ellen*, that by allowing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and issues to be openly celebrated and explored, television becomes more engaging and entertaining.

Please thank RuPaul and VH-1 for this continually fun, gay-positive, drag extravaganza. Contact: RuPaul and Jeff Gaspin, Senior Vice President of Programming and Production, VH-1, 1515 Broadway, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10036, fax:

212.846.1751, e-mail: Shows@vh1.com.

Price exposes 'reparative' damage

In the September 26 edition of lesbian journalist Deb Price's outstanding *Detroit News* column, she looks at studies that go beyond the recent American Psychological Association (APA) decision urging that "psychologists not dupe patients into thinking that being gay is sick."

"Psychologist Ariel Shidlo felt frustrated," she writes. "Many of his colleagues within the APA shared his belief that therapeutic attempts to 'cure' homosexuality are not just ineffective, but harmful. Yet data documenting the damage — data that might lead the APA to brand such therapy unethical — didn't exist." Price explains that Shidlo and psychologist Michael Schroeder are halfway into a study interviewing 200 people who futilely attempted to become heterosexual with the help of a licensed therapist or a so-called "ex-gay" counseling group.

The preliminary damages they face, she reports, include high levels of depression that can lead to self-destructive behavior like unsafe sex, drug abuse, and attempt-

ed suicide.

"Having been misled into thinking that being gay is a mental disorder and something that can be changed if they'll only try hard enough, many people become doubly flawed when a 'cure' eludes them," she reports. "Ironically, the one way reparative therapy is beneficial to a few people is proving to them that they really are gay and should accept themselves," Shidlo's research shows.

She adds that many patients lied to their reparative therapists, telling them what they wanted to hear while they continued to have gay male relationships.

"The healthiest journey for gay people is toward self-acceptance," Price says. "Therapists can mark the path or stay out of the way. Clearly, there's no other ethical option. Blocking the path does real damage. And that's not just a claim." Price lists several resources for people struggling with self-acceptance, including the ex-gay Web site at <http://members.aol.com/exegay/index.html>.

To commend the *Detroit News* and Deb Price for her ongoing level-headed, well-reasoned column and specifically for going where the APA was unwilling to go — yet — contact Deb Price, c/o Letters to the Editor, Detroit News, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226, fax: 313.222.6417, e-mail: letters@detnews.com. ▀



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Youth gone wired

by Heather Shirkey

With Coming Out Day just around the corner (this Saturday, October 11), Geek Grrrl feels it is only proper that we honor the Web locales designed for young adults who have begun to question their own sexuality. No longer do questioning youths in rural America need to run to San Francisco for support and answers. It is all coming to them, from other youth and youth-related organizations who have tapped into the glorious network of the Web. Young adults can ask questions, seek feedback, and educate themselves (from the privacy of their homes) with the help of understanding cyberfriends beaming info along the wires.

One of the first stops online for queer youth is often the Alternative Kids Web Page (<http://www.afn.org/~afn63843>). The page remains slightly rough around the edges as far as design and layout are concerned (no more lavender, please!), but offers some great networking opportunities. Queer youth can link into an area called "Alternative Connections" (a free alternative dating and pen pal service) or visit the "Employment Opportunities area." Also, if you are the child of a queer parent and would like to speak with other children in similar situations, you can get direct interaction through COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere), which is an interactive mailing list, accessible through Alternative Kids.



Geek Grrrl

If you are looking for more specific interactions with other queer youth and are seeking answers regarding your sexuality, there are two hot spots online where you can participate in message exchanges and chats. The first one is the soc.support.youth.gaylesbian.bi newsgroup (<http://www.youth.org/ssygb>), a forum where youth, who may have nowhere else to go, can express their fears, feelings, thoughts and questions in a safe environment.

Subscription to the mailing list is easy from the Web, and the newsgroup offers anonymous posting to protect the privacy of those who desire it.

Do you happen to be perusing AOL for a space where you can ask questions and chat with other queer youth?

Just head over to **KEYWORD: "Gay Youth."** Here you'll find a teen-related chat area called "The Club House," hosted by the Gay and Lesbian Community Forum. You can also post to a message and discussion board and exchange comments with queer youth around the country.

If you're still feeling like an island of questions stranded in an environment where information regarding sexuality is difficult to come by, then perhaps what you need is an oasis. One online mag has decided to pull together a special Web space for you! *Oasis* (<http://www.oasismag.com>), an online magazine written by and for gay youth, is a cute and simple Web site that is rich with some of the most up-to-date youth resource information. Navigate easily through a variety of categories, including a monthly

cover story (this month, about gay comic Bob Smith), features, and columns written by young people from a variety of backgrounds and geographical locations.

Perhaps the most promising addition to the youth Web community is actually still in test phase, but is making quite a splash on the scene already! *Alltogether.com* (<http://www.alltogether.com>) is "a place to explore sexuality and coming out." Its official launch is soon on the horizon, October 11th, but many of the site's features are active and available now. The pages are full of real life information for youth who are gay, straight, closeted, or yet undecided. This is definitely a fun and comfortable place to explore, both the site and yourself!

"Alltogether" will feature resource areas, celebrity info, expert information on current issues like gay adoption and gay kids in schools, and a special "Strategy Warehouse" loaded with information from people who have been there before. Perhaps one of the most thoroughly thought-out features of the site is called Zap Panel. Zap Panel is not only a lot of fun, but useful and personal. Here, you can "meet gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight people, and ask them questions." It's an interactive area where you choose a guide, ask a question, and receive answers along with suggestions for other potential resources. Look for this site to really grow and flourish on the Web after its official launch on Coming Out Day, October 11, 1997. ▼

Link to the sites mentioned in today's article from Geek Grrrl's Web page at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezbar>.

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scription. Those include such responsibilities as conducting bid openings for contracts, preparing construction contracts for the FOM division, and tracking construction projects.

Ilnicki said he could not provide a copy of Ventresca's job description; as part of his personnel file, attorneys advised Ilnicki the information is not subject to the city's Sunshine Ordinance, although the more general job characteristics document is public information. That document "sets forth the parameters of a management assistant's job for positions throughout San Francisco," Ilnicki said.

While the general job characteristics include references to budget-related duties, Ilnicki maintained Ventresca does not currently perform any of them in his capacity as a management assistant at SFO. Ilnicki also said he could only comment on Ventresca's present job duties.

Ilnicki added that the next promotion for a management assistant would be to a senior management assistant. It would be unlikely, although not impossible, for someone to go from a management assistant directly to a job such as the budget and fiscal operations manager. "It would be unusual for someone to be promoted directly without really phenomenal experience. I couldn't rule it out, but it is unusual."

Ventresca responds

In an interview Wednesday, October 8, Ventresca acknowledged he's not currently doing budgetary work; however, he maintains he has done budget work in the past. "Over the nearly

11 years at the airport, my duties have changed. I've done work preparing the budget, not currently, but in the past. I've done five budget cycles out of 11 years."

He was also asked about an eight-month gap in employment on his resume between April 1986 and January 1987, when he started at SFO. Initially, he said he spent the time taking civil service exams and looking for work; he later called back saying he reviewed his records and that from April to June 1986, he worked as an assistant to the executive director for the St. Vincent Day Home in Oakland.

Regarding his current job, Ventresca said the term budget and policy analyst is "correct as far as I'm concerned."

The candidates' statements printed in the voter handbook are not verified by anyone, according to a disclaimer at the bottom. In his statement, Ventresca writes, "My occupation is City and County of San Francisco Airport Commission Budget and Policy Analyst." He was asked whether the misrepresentation of his job title is a violation of the public trust and bristled at the question. "I am a budget and policy analyst for SFO, and I think anyone who would make that charge is irresponsible."

"The record is there, all the projects I've worked on. I believe it is an accurate description," said Ventresca.

Ventresca maintained that he's never said that budget and policy analyst is his civil service job classification, and said he has stated his job title, management assistant, when asked. "I've not made any statements that are inaccurate, in my opinion." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

SF Youth Commission has its first open lesbian member

Diverse group hopes voters pass Prop E

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Youth Commission, made up entirely of 17 young people from throughout the city, has more queer representation than it did a year ago; one of the first openly gay commissioners, Kent Khounsbom, was reappointed, and newcomer Dennis Isner is also openly gay. This year, there is also the first openly lesbian youth commissioner, Lena Turner, who was appointed by openly lesbian Supervisor Leslie Katz.

Turner, who turned 20 last month, said she's looking forward to serving on the youth commission and feels the body helps empower young people, giving them responsibilities in terms of making recommendations about how the city should provide and support services for its younger citizens. It's also a great way to experience local government in action, she said.

"It's really putting queer youth up there, it's great there are three on the commission, because more voices are heard," Turner told the B.A.R. "I think also it's showing other queer youth they can be politically active. It's an intense group; everyone's so diverse and everyone's so different."

Katz is pleased with her appointment. "The work of the youth commission will be greatly enhanced by the presence of Lena. The issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth must be well integrated into youth issues in general."

"We must also encourage future leaders like Lena. The future of our community depends on it," Katz said.

Out at 16

Turner has been actively involved with queer youth issues for several years, including the 1996 and 1997 Young, Loud, and Proud events. She has also volunteered on a youth talkline run by Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC).

"I came out at 16," Turner said. "I didn't tell anyone I went to school with, except for teachers who were openly gay. Most of my family has been pretty supportive, but it's been rough."

She now lives on her own in the city and works full-time in Mountain View. Turner graduated from Phillip and Sala Burton High School in 1995 and plans to go to college.

Turner credited two local groups for being there when she needed support after she came out as a lesbian. "The best thing I did when I came out was get involved with Drama DIVAS and the LYRIC talkline."

Drama DIVAS is a program run by Brava! For Women in the Arts. Turner participated in production of a queer youth 'zine and operated a light board and sound equipment during performances.

LYRIC's youth talkline is for people 23 years of age and younger. From 1995 through



Lena Turner

1997, Turner was a shift leader, helping train new volunteers to become active listeners, as well as learning crisis intervention, and becoming sensitive to cultural diversity. That experience should serve her well on the youth commission.

Proposition E

The commission has had just two meetings since Mayor Willie Brown presided over the swearing-in ceremony September 9. The group will meet again next Thursday, October 16, and welcomes the involvement of the city's young people. The commis-

sion is also hoping voters approve Proposition E on the November 4 ballot that would give the commissioners the ability to draft legislation so that members could receive a modest stipend, increase the commissioners' term of office from one to two years, and stagger those terms.

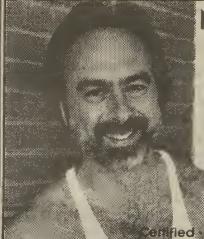
Officially, commissioners cannot lobby for the ballot measure; Isner is the campaign manager and coordinator for the proposition, but only when he's not officially conducting youth commission business.

"The big misconception is that it will cost money, that it will allow the youth commissioners to get paid," Isner told the B.A.R.

Currently, funding for the commission is allocated by the Board of Supervisors, and that will not change under Proposition E. Isner said what will change is that the commission will have the authority to write future legislation so they can receive a stipend for attending meetings. That would only occur if the supervisors approve and the mayor signs any legislation.

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's liaison to the queer community, said that right now, some city commissioners do receive small stipends, such as \$25 per meeting, while others do not. It seems the

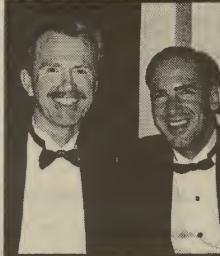
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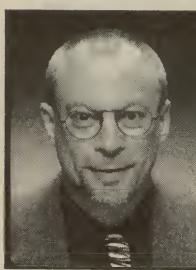
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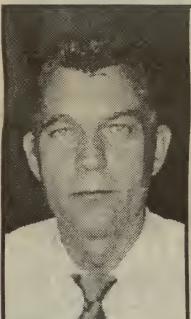
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PAWS has new Market Street digs

Benefit tomorrow, open house October 15

by Cynthia Laird

The friendly and beautiful blonde who sometimes greets visitors to the offices of Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) is a yellow Labrador mix named Quinn, which is fitting for an agency that provides a variety of pet-related services to low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. This Wednesday, October 15, PAWS is hosting an open house, and Chris Dunaway, director of operations, said the community is invited to stop by the new Market Street offices and say hello to Quinn and the rest of the gang there.

There will also be a benefit to raise money for PAWS this Friday, October 10.

Over the last 10 years, PAWS has seen several changes as the AIDS pandemic has changed, according to Client Services Director Erin Farrell. "There has been a shift, there's less practical support such as dog-walking and changing cat litter boxes. Now, people use the veterinary services and food more, and that's a financial strain, because it's stuff that costs money."

Dunaway agreed that the veterinary and pet food services that most of the 300 clients utilize are the most expensive for the agency to provide, but she said PAWS stays in business because of private donations (of cash and supplies like pet food), and because about 200 volunteers help hold down costs.

Professionals volunteer their grooming facilities and expertise to bathe animals and clip their nails. PAWS also works in conjunction with more than 20 vets throughout the Bay Area, who also donate their services. Other volunteers help coordinate those services, plus many others, including dog-walking, aquarium cleaning, foster care, transportation to pet medical or grooming appointments, and helping staff the new office. In fact, Dunaway said, "Right now, we have a really big need for reception staff."

Volunteers also host events to raise money, such as the popular Doggone Fun Run, and staff booths at local community events such as the Folsom and Castro street fairs. This year PAWS was a beneficiary of Macy's Passport In-store.

The newest PAWS benefit takes place this Friday, courtesy of Romantasy, the boutique that "tells



PAWS pals: Erin Farrell, Quinn the office dog, and Chris Dunaway.

Cynthia Laird

the secret Victoria tries to keep." The corseteria will celebrate its recent move to the Upper Market area from the Marina District by holding an open house from 8 p.m. until midnight at its 2191 Market Street store, right around the corner from the PAWS office.

Romantasy features antique mannequins displaying made-to-measure Victorian corsets and costumes, for which it has earned an international reputation. "We promise to carry on Romantasy's tradition of promoting the softer side of sex," said owner Ann Grogan.

She said tomorrow's event includes a hand massage of human "paws" by certified massage therapist Sandy Fawcett. Local jazz singer Joan Max will emcee the gala, which also features a 20-model corset fashion show called "The Beautiful and the Bodacious." Latin dance team Christina and Jaime will entertain with demonstrations of their fiery ballroom technique in the tango, rumba, and salsa, and other entertainers will perform as well. There is no fee, although donations will be accepted on behalf of PAWS.

The new PAWS office on Market Street, where the agency will hold its own open house next Wednesday, is next door to Ro-

mantasy. It had been in a second floor suite of offices on Castro Street until last month, but a combination of factors made the new location more attractive, including higher visibility and better access to people with disabilities. "It was stupid for us to be paying so much rent," Farrell said, referring to the old location.

Additionally, she said, the need for space was reduced since the paid PAWS staff had been streamlined all the way down to Dunaway and Farrell.

And Quinn, the beautiful blonde receptionist with the cold nose. ▼

The upcoming PAWS open house is from 6 to 8 p.m. at 2191 Market Street, at 15th Street. Once a month, PAWS holds orientation for new volunteers; they also accept up to 10 new clients per month. The next volunteer session is scheduled for Saturday, November 8.

People interested in the next volunteer orientation or who are interested in becoming a PAWS client should call (415) 241-1460. For information on the Romantasy event, call (415) 487-9909.

Youth Comm.

◀ previous page

matter has been handled in a haphazard manner over the years; some stipends for commissioners have been approved by voters, while some have been introduced and passed by the supervisors.

In addition to drafting legislation, Proposition E will extend a lot of youth commissioner roles and responsibilities, Isner said.

Moving ahead

Regardless of Proposition E and whether it passes, Isner said the youth commission is moving

forward. There are plans to form a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth advisory task force in the city that the commission may decide to get involved with, as well as the upcoming AIDS Summit the mayor is planning.

"It's a matter of what the various commissioners want to take on," said Isner. ▼

The San Francisco Youth Commission meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at City Hall, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 207. For more info, call (415) 554-6446.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AEF to benefit from Castro guest house garden luncheon

by Cynthia Laird

The proprietors of one of the Castro's newer guest houses will open up the renovated Parker House this Saturday, October 11 for a sumptuous garden luncheon to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). Owners Bill Boedeker and Bob O'Halloran anticipate a good turnout, and hope to raise between \$5,000 and \$7,000 for one of the city's more respected AIDS service organizations.

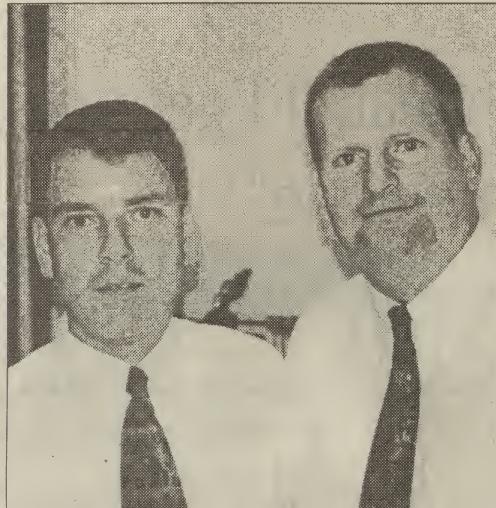
The Parker House Guest House and Gardens, as the renovated mini-mansion is formally known, is located at 530 Church Street near 18th Street, close to public transportation and the Castro's cafes, shops, and bars. Stairs from its elegant deck, adjacent to the large and sunny breakfast room, lead down to an expansive garden and patio area that Boedeker says is the ideal setting for the festive fall luncheon. Violinist Sara Knutson and a string quartet will supply musical entertainment. The 2223 Restaurant and Bar will provide the food; Mecca will donate the wine and soft drinks.

"Everyone is welcome to attend," Boedeker said. "One hundred percent of the \$50 per person ticket price will go directly to AEF."

Others who are involved with the luncheon include Christian Damerow, Nick Harvey, Chris Krzak, Jack Monroe, and Greg Smith, plus the businesses Church Street Flowers and Abbey Party Rental. If all goes well, Boedeker and O'Halloran intend to make the event an annual fall fundraiser for AEF and its emergency grants program, which received approximately \$860,000 this year through the federal Ryan White CARE program but depends largely on community donations for support.

\$120,000 per month

AEF started in San Francisco's leather community in 1982 with \$6,500 given to 19 clients; today it distributes grants on behalf of about 4,000 people and has a budget of \$1.8 million. People don't receive the money directly; AEF sends checks to clients' land-



Parker House owners Bob O'Halloran and Bill Boedeker.

lords, utility company, or other creditors.

As people with HIV are living longer, the number of AEF client requests continues to increase, and the organization finds itself in need of donor support. A cash crunch forced the board last March to reduce its maximum grant from \$500 to \$400 per person, per year, but even after that move AEF Board President Ken Turner said AEF needs to raise \$120,000 per month to meet the current need.

Boedeker and O'Halloran said one reason they helped organize the luncheon is that they like AEF's cost-effectiveness and lack of high administrative overhead. It has no paid executive director, and strives to distribute 90 percent of its budget to clients; last year that figure dropped a notch to 89 percent, Turner said, but it remains one of the few ASOs to give such a high percentage of its annual budget to direct client services.

The Parker House fundraiser follows a successful fundraiser at the popular Lake Merritt eatery ZZA's Trattoria September 10. Owner and chef Janene Silverman donated all lunch and dinner proceeds from all food and liquor

Bay. Despite the BART strike that raged at the time, customers packed ZZA's during the evening hours and contributed more than \$5,000 to AEF. ▼

The luncheon starts at 1 p.m. Tickets can be reserved by calling (415) 621-3222.

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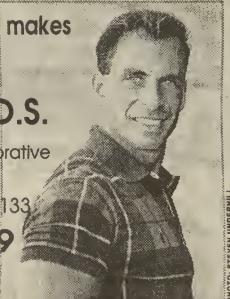
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Not anymore. We now know that even if you look good and feel healthy, the virus is fighting every day against your immune system—a fight it may someday win.

VIRACEPT is a powerful new protease inhibitor now available for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. VIRACEPT is generally well-tolerated, is taken three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks, and requires no special dietary restrictions.

Most importantly, VIRACEPT is effective. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. And in laboratory studies, HIV obtained from five patients that became resistant to VIRACEPT was not resistant to other protease inhibitors. (The clinical significance of laboratory studies of protease inhibitor

resistance and changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is mild to moderate diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But we can tell you that yesterday's HIV beliefs are quickly becoming today's myths.

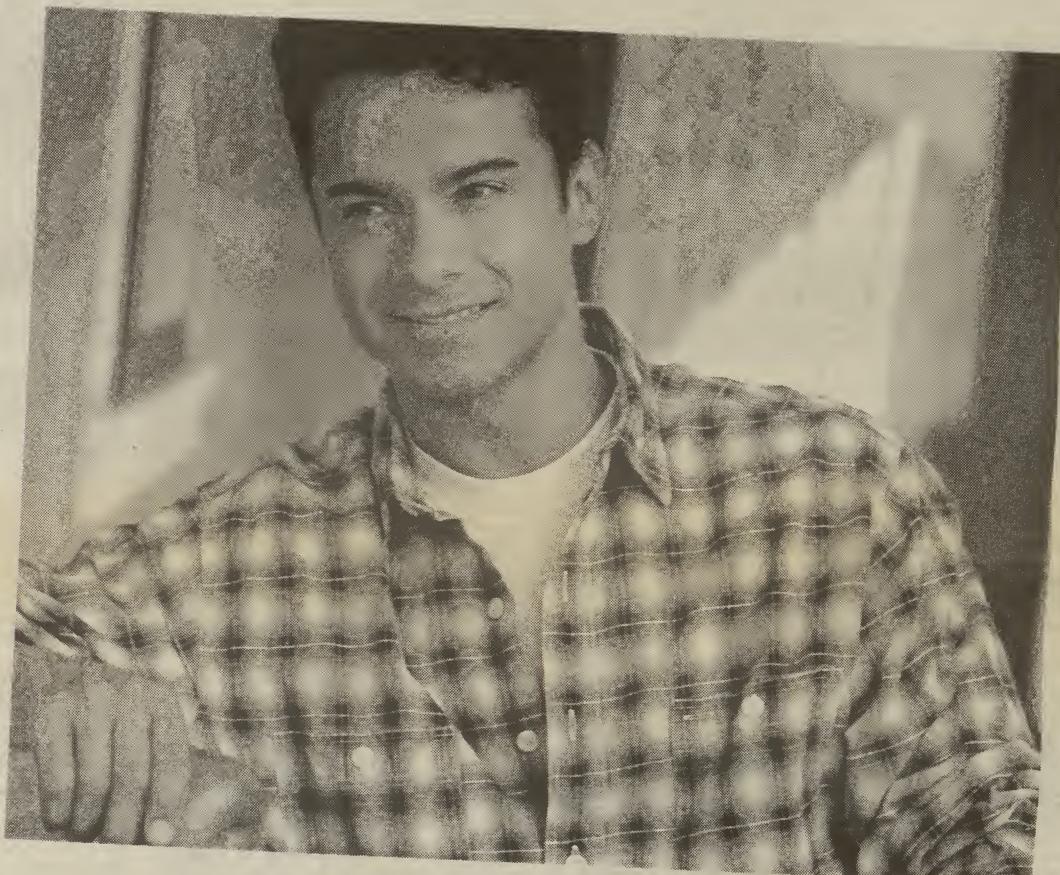
Talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT, and begin to consider something new. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit www.agouron.com.

VIRACEPT[®] nelfinavir mesylate

Refer to the important information on the next page.


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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

TABLETS AND ORAL POWDER

BRIEF SUMMARY: For complete prescribing information, see package insert.

VIRACEPT is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when antiretroviral therapy is warranted. This indication is based on surrogate marker changes in patients who received **VIRACEPT** in combination with nucleoside analogues or alone for up to 24 weeks. At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of therapy with **VIRACEPT** on clinical progression of HIV infection, such as survival or the incidence of opportunistic infections.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

VIRACEPT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of its components.

WARNING

Patients with Phenylketonuria: **VIRACEPT** Oral Powder contains 11.2 mg phenylalanine per gram of powder. **VIRACEPT** should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, triazolam or midazolam, because competition for CYP3A by nelfinavir could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias or prolonged sedation.

PRECAUTIONS**General**

Nelfinavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering this drug to patients with hepatic impairment.

Resistance/Cross Resistance: Because the potential for HIV cross resistance between protease inhibitors has not been fully explored, it is unknown what effect nelfinavir therapy will have on the activity of subsequently administered protease inhibitors. (See MICROBIOLOGY in complete prescribing information.)

Hemophilia

There have been reports of increased bleeding, including spontaneous skin hematomas and hemarthrosis, in patients with hemophilia type A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients, additional factor VIII was given. In more than half of the reported cases, treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or reintroduced. A causal relationship has not been established.

Information For Patients

For optimal absorption, patients should be advised to take **VIRACEPT** with food. (See Pharmacokinetics and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Patients should be informed that **VIRACEPT** is not a cure for HIV infection and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections.

Patients should be told that the long-term effects of **VIRACEPT** are unknown at this time. They should be told that there is currently no data demonstrating that **VIRACEPT** therapy can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be advised to take **VIRACEPT** every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue therapy without consulting with their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the dose as soon as possible and then return to their normal schedule. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

The most frequent adverse event associated with **VIRACEPT** is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with non-prescription drugs, such as loperamide, which slow gastrointestinal motility.

VIRACEPT may interact with some drugs, therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other prescription or non-prescription medication.

Patients receiving oral contraceptives should be instructed that alternate or additional contraceptive measures should be used during therapy with **VIRACEPT**.

Drug Interactions

Nelfinavir is an inhibitor of CYP3A (cytochrome P450 3A). Coadministration of **VIRACEPT** and drugs primarily metabolized by CYP3A may result in increased plasma concentrations of the other drug that could increase or prolong both its therapeutic and adverse effects. Nelfinavir is metabolized in part by CYP3A. Coadministration of **VIRACEPT** and drugs that induce CYP3A may decrease nelfinavir plasma concentrations and reduce its therapeutic effect. Coadministration of **VIRACEPT** and drugs that inhibit CYP3A may increase nelfinavir plasma concentrations.

Based on known metabolic profiles, clinically significant drug interactions are not expected between **VIRACEPT** and dapsone, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, clarithromycin, azithromycin, erythromycin, itraconazole or fluconazole.

Antihistamines

Terfenadine: Administration of terfenadine with **VIRACEPT** resulted in the appearance of unchanged terfenadine in plasma; therefore, **VIRACEPT** should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. Because a similar interaction is likely, **VIRACEPT** should also not be administered concurrently with **astemizole**.

Anti-HIV protease inhibitors

Indinavir: Coadministration of indinavir with **VIRACEPT** resulted in an 83% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 51% increase in indinavir plasma AUC. The safety of this combination has not been established.

Ritonavir: Coadministration of ritonavir with **VIRACEPT** resulted in a 152% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and very little change in ritonavir plasma AUC. The safety of this combination has not been established.

Saquinavir: Coadministration of saquinavir with **VIRACEPT** resulted in an 18% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 392% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. If used in combination, no dose adjustments are needed.

Antifungal agents

Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole with **VIRACEPT** resulted in a 35% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC. This change was not considered clinically significant and no dose adjustment is needed when ketoconazole and **VIRACEPT** are coadministered.

Anti-HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors

Didanosine: It is recommended that didanosine be administered on an empty stomach; therefore, nelfinavir should be administered (with food) one hour after or more than two hours before didanosine.

Zidovudine: Coadministration of zidovudine and lamivudine with **VIRACEPT** resulted in a 35% decrease in zidovudine plasma AUC. A dose adjustment is not needed when zidovudine is administered with **VIRACEPT**.

Little or no change in the pharmacokinetics of either drug was observed when **VIRACEPT** was coadministered with **lamivudine** or **zidovudine**.

Antimycobacterial agents

Rifabutin: Coadministration of rifabutin and **VIRACEPT** resulted in a 32% decrease in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 207% increase in rifabutin plasma AUC. It is recommended that the dose of rifabutin be reduced to one-half the usual dose when administered with **VIRACEPT**.

Rifampin: Coadministration of rifampin and **VIRACEPT** resulted in an 82% decrease in nelfinavir plasma AUC. **VIRACEPT** and rifampin should not be coadministered.

Oral Contraceptives

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone: Coadministration of **VIRACEPT** with OVCON-35 resulted in a 47% decrease in ethinyl estradiol and an 18% decrease in norethindrone plasma concentrations. Alternate or additional contraceptive measures should be used during therapy with **VIRACEPT**.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Carcinogenicity studies in animals have not yet been completed. Nelfinavir was not, however, mutagenic or clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests including microbial mutagenesis (Ames), mouse lymphoma chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes, and an *in vivo* rat micronucleus assay.

Pregnancy, Fertility and Reproduction – Pregnancy Category B

Comparisons of systemic exposure are based on the steady-state area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) observed in humans receiving the recommended therapeutic dose. Nelfinavir produced no effects on either male or female mating and fertility or embryo survival in rat studies at exposures comparable to human therapeutic exposure. There were also no effects on fetal development or maternal toxicity when nelfinavir was administered to pregnant rats at systemic exposures comparable to human exposure. Administration of nelfinavir to pregnant rabbits resulted in no fetal development effects up to a dose at which a slight decrease in maternal body weight was observed; however, even at the highest dose evaluated, systemic exposure in rabbits was significantly lower than human exposure. Additional studies in rats indicated that exposure to nelfinavir in females from mid-pregnancy through lactation had no effect on the survival, growth, and development of the offspring to weaning. Subsequent reproductive performance of these offspring was also not affected by maternal exposure to nelfinavir. However, there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, **VIRACEPT** should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not yet be infected. Studies in lactating rats have demonstrated that nelfinavir is excreted in milk. It is not known whether nelfinavir is excreted in human milk.

Pediatric Use

Nelfinavir was studied in one open-label, uncontrolled trial in 38 pediatric patients ranging in age from 2 to 13 years. In order to achieve plasma concentrations in pediatric patients which approximate those observed in adults, the recommended pediatric dose is 20-30 mg/kg given three times daily, not to exceed 750 mg three times a day. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

A similar adverse event profile was seen during the pediatric clinical trial as in adult patients. The evaluation of the antiviral activity of nelfinavir in pediatric patients is ongoing.

The safety, effectiveness and pharmacokinetics of nelfinavir have not been evaluated in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety of **VIRACEPT** was studied in over 1500 patients who received drug either alone or in combination with nucleoside analogues (d4T or ZDV/3TC). The majority of adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported adverse event among patients receiving **VIRACEPT** was diarrhea, which was generally of mild to moderate intensity.

Drug-related clinical adverse experiences of moderate or severe intensity in ≥2% of patients treated with **VIRACEPT** coadministered with ZDV plus 3TC (Study 511) or in combination with d4T (Study 506) for up to 24 weeks are presented in Table 1.

Table 1—Percentage of Patients with Treatment-Emergent^a Adverse Events of Moderate or Severe Intensity Reported in ≥2% of Patients

Adverse Events	Study 511 Native Patients			Study 506 Experienced Patients		
	Placebo + ZDV/3TC (n=101)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=97)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=100)	Placebo + d4T (n=109)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=98)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=101)
Body as a Whole						
Abdominal Pain	1%	0	0	3%	2%	4%
Asthenia	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%
Digestive System						
Diarrhea	3%	14%	20%	10%	28%	32%
Nausea	4%	3%	7%	1%	3%	2%
Flatulence	0	5%	2%	4%	8%	3%
Skin/Appendages						
Rash	1%	1%	3%	0	4%	3%

^a Includes those adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown relationship and excludes concurrent HIV conditions

Adverse events occurring in less than 2% of patients receiving **VIRACEPT** in all phase II/III clinical trials and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate severity are listed below.

Body as a Whole: accidental injury, allergic reaction, back pain, fever, headache, malaise, and pain.

Digestive System: anorexia, dyspepsia, epigastric pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, hepatitis, mouth ulceration, pancreatitis and vomiting.

Hemic/Lymphatic System: anemia, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia.

Metabolic/Nutritional System: increases in alkaline phosphate, amylase, creatine phosphokinase, lactic dehydrogenase, SGOT, SGPT and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase; hyperlipemia, hyperuricemia, hypoglycemia, dehydration, and liver function tests abnormal.

Musculoskeletal System: arthralgia, arthritis, cramps, myalgia, myasthenia and myopathy.

Nervous System: anxiety, depression, dizziness, emotional liability, hyperkinesia, insomnia, migraine, paresthesia, seizures, sleep disorder, somnolence and suicide ideation.

Respiratory System: dyspnea, pharyngitis, rhinitis, and sinusitis.

Skin/Appendages: dermatitis, folliculitis, fungal dermatitis, maculopapular rash, pruritus, sweating, and urticaria.

Special Senses: acute iritis and eye disorder.

Urogenital System: kidney calculus, sexual dysfunction and urine abnormality.

Laboratory Abnormalities

Few patients experienced significant laboratory abnormalities while receiving **VIRACEPT**. The percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in Studies 511 and 506 are presented in Table 2. Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a Grade 3 or 4 abnormality in a patient with a normal baseline value or a Grade 4 abnormality in a patient with a Grade 1 abnormality at baseline.

Table 2—Percentage of Patients by Treatment Group With Marked Laboratory Abnormalities^a in >2% of Patients

	Study 511 Native Patients			Study 506 Experienced Patients		
	Placebo + ZDV/3TC (n=101)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=97)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=100)	Placebo + d4T (n=109)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=98)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=101)
Hematology						
Hemoglobin	6%	3%	2%	0	0	0
Neutrophils	4%	3%	5%	1%	1%	4%
Lymphocytes	1%	6%	1%	1%	1%	0
Chemistry						
ALT (SGPT)	6%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%
AST (SGOT)	4%	1%	0	0	3%	3%
Creatine Kinase	7%	2%	2%	4%	5%	6%

^a Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a shift from Grade 0 at baseline to at least Grade 3 or from Grade 1 to Grade 4

OVERDOSE

Human experience of acute overdose with **VIRACEPT** is limited. There is no specific antidote for overdose with **VIRACEPT**. If indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug should be achieved by emesis or gastric lavage. Administration of activated charcoal may also be used to aid removal of unabsorbed drug. Since nelfinavir is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to significantly remove drug from blood.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Beautiful dreamers

Planners envision a more livable Castro

by Mark Mardon

For all its renown as home to the world's most vibrant gay community, the Castro neighborhood falls far short of civic perfection. Skyrocketing rental prices, too many cars and chain stores, insufficient sidewalk space, the lack of an ample plaza for community rallies: these are among the many complaints area residents and visitors have voiced in recent years. Yet rather than kvetch, twiddle thumbs, and do nothing to address the problems, one group of architects, urban designers, artists, and representatives of nonprofit service organizations is busy brainstorming solutions, and inviting the public's help.

"We want to develop Castro and Upper Market streets as a center of gay and lesbian culture and services," says local architect Michael Mullin, a member of Castro Area Planning + Action (CAP+A), a nonprofit organization focusing on housing, safety, economic development, gay and lesbian visibility, transportation, traffic and parking, community institutions, and general planning. The group's goal is to devise ways of maintaining and strengthening the ethos of community diversity, service, participation, and cohesiveness that lesbians and gays have built in the neighborhood over the last 30 years.

Toward that end, CAP+A members conduct workshops and public meetings to hash out the issues and devise blueprints and action plans for a redesigned Castro neighborhood that fully lives up to its international reputation. Past sessions have focused on ways to attract diverse, small, local businesses, create low-cost housing opportunities, and develop mixed-use buildings accommodating businesses, affordable offices for nonprofit groups, and residential units. Future meetings will continue these goals, while focusing on ways to expand public spaces, improve public transportation, reduce traffic congestion, and provide more amenities for pedestrians.

With the lesbian and gay population growing by leaps and bounds every year, the Castro neighborhood, as it's commonly termed, now encompasses an area of about one square mile, generally bounded by Dolores, 21st, Market/Clayton, and Waller Streets.

The neighborhood's main focal point continues to be Harvey Milk Plaza, at the intersection of Castro and Market streets, a space of particular interest to CAP+A. At present, in CAP+A's view, the plaza is an undistinguished urban space, little more than a subway entrance, with no gathering places, pedestrian facilities, or any indication that the place is important. The group would like to see it become an inviting "town square" suitable for large and small public gatherings, as well as a fitting memorial to Harvey Milk.

Among the schemes considered for achieving this goal are reconfiguring traffic through the intersection — perhaps creating a traffic circle — closing a portion of 17th Street to cars, acquiring adjacent private properties and turning them into landscaped open spaces, designing a raised platform for performance and

political rallies, and erecting a prominent landmark visible from down Market and Castro streets. [See sidebar.]

To enable nonprofit groups to move back to the neighborhood, after their flight to lower-rent sections of the city, CAP+A would like to see zoning laws changed to favor taller, multiple-use buildings. In return for providing low-cost rental space for nonprofit organizations, as well as low-cost apartment units, landlords would be allowed to exceed the current 50-foot building-height limit (80-foot on corners) now enforced by the city. They might also be released from the requirement for providing one parking space for every 500 square feet of commercial space. Increased floor space lessens a building's total property costs, making such an arrangement enticing to landlords. The result, in addition to affordable rental spaces, would be a higher building and population density for the neighborhood.

"Higher density is often positive for the environment," says CAP+A member Linton Stables, who works for a local architectural firm. "It allows for more public transit, social services, and street life."

A denser neighborhood would also help eliminate "dead spaces" along stretches of Market Street from Castro to Waller.

These include uninhabited stretches of sidewalk, such as along the Safeway parking lot at Church and Market. By encouraging more storefronts, and perhaps by designating places for street artists to display their work, such spaces would attract more foot traffic, making them livelier and safer.

The possible reduction of available parking spaces would require a reconfiguration of transportation in and out of the Castro. Presently, although the neighborhood is well-served by public

transit, some inadequacies need to be addressed. The Muni underground rail line, for instance, shuts down prematurely at 10 p.m. And currently no bus lines provide direct connections between BART and the Castro, or CalTrain and the Castro. These shortcomings would most likely need to be rectified. New bus routes might be necessary for getting Castro commuters to Peninsula, South Bay, and Marin County locations without requiring multiple transfers. Additionally, remote parking might be arranged at easy-to-reach locations, with shuttle buses running on a regular basis.

Another CAP+A idea for enticing people out of their cars would be to create a public or private jitney service that shuttles passengers around the neighborhood at frequent intervals. If the demand for parking spaces still persists, public garages could be built, but only as temporary structures, designed so that they could be converted several years later to commercial and residential uses. By that time, ideally, efficient public transportation would have substantially reduced the need for cars.

"We want to make sure that schools, arts and social service organizations, churches and non-retail services remain available in the neighborhood in the coming years," says CAP+A representative Mullin. "As rents increase and the neighborhood becomes a destination location, we want to ensure that affordable space is available for all the institutions that are important to people in the Castro."

The next public CAP+A forum will be held Thursday, October 16 from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4325 19th St.

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Harvey Milk gets the biggest pole in the Castro

by Mike Salinas

Mayor Willie Brown has ordered his liaison to the gay and lesbian community to facilitate the placement of a flagpole for a rainbow flag in Harvey Milk Plaza, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano introduced a measure before the board two years ago to place some sort of artistic memorial to slain Supervisor Harvey Milk in the plaza at Castro and Market streets. Since its passage May 26, 1995, however, no action has been taken.

Gilbert Baker, the designer of the rainbow flag design that has become an international gay symbol, collected signatures at the Castro Street Fair Sunday, October 5 in support of the idea of placing a rainbow flag in the plaza on the 20th anniversary of Milk's first election, November 8. Shortly after arriving with his petitions, he saw the mayor with gay liaison Dean Goodwin and pitched the idea to them.

"[Brown] listened to me for a few minutes and then turned to Dean and said, 'Sounds good. Do it,'" Baker told the *B.A.R.*.

Goodwin confirmed Baker's version of events, and said Brown had ordered him to work with Mark Primeau, the openly gay director of the Department of Public Works (DPW), to get the flagpole erected. Since meeting with Primeau on Monday, Goodwin said, "I don't know of any problems with it. They should have all the materials they need at DPW."

He said he expected the necessary work to be completed by November 20. No details about a possible dedication ceremony were available at press time. ▼

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Lesbian writer Cherrie Moraga to speak Landmark USF event to examine Hispanics

by Cynthia Laird

By the year 2000, Hispanics will be the largest minority group in the United States, and the U.S. will be the fourth largest nation of the Hispanic world. What does it mean to be one of the 25 million Hispanics in the United States as the century comes to a close? How do different notions of Hispanity - Chicano, Latino, and Neurican - resonate throughout this country, as well as the Spanish-speaking Western Hemisphere? Interested people can find out about those issues and a lot more this weekend, when the University of San Francisco (USF) hosts a pioneering interdisciplinary and international conference, "Hispanics: Cultural Locations." Starting Friday, October 10 and running through Sunday, October 12, the landmark gathering will include more than 100 panel presentations and several plenary sessions.

Organizers said people can still register for the event, which gets underway starting at noon Friday, October 10.

The overall aim of the event will be to examine the challenges and opportunities of being Hispanic in North America. Sponsored by the USF College of Arts



Hispanics in this country have come to think of themselves as a problem," said Mendieta. "We are not a problem; we have been coming up with our own solutions through many venues. The conference's goal is to underscore that we are not a problem, but the subject of our own history."

Among many contemporary issues, speakers will examine the following questions throughout the weekend:

- What is the general status of immigration in the U.S., and why has the immigration of Hispanics caused such a backlash among voters?

- Why do Latin Americans in general seem aloof to the cultural situation of Chicanos, Latinos, and Neuricans living in California and the rest of the country?

- Are Hispanics in this country losing sight of their cultural ties with Latin America?

- How can the cultural ties between Hispanics in Latin America and Hispanics in North America be strengthened?

Relative cultural disconnection

"To be Hispanic is to be many things racially, culturally, linguistically, and religiously. To be Hispanic is to access an ancient background, racial mixing, and colonizations," Mendieta said. "Hispanicity is an abstraction and a construction; it's ancient history and a place in the world. In this conference, we will be looking at Hispanicity from a postmodernism point of view. Postmodernism implies the collapse of a monolithic view of culture, and the emergence of many cultures and stories."

Lange-Churion said he, too, feels the event is important in order to assess the changing role of Latin American identity. "As a Latin American, I have realized that there is a relative cultural disconnection between Latin Americans living in and outside the U.S., and between U.S. Latinos, Chicanos, and Nuyoricans. I've witnessed the sweeping generalizations that are used to address the very diverse Latino community."

"This conference will address the imperative need to assess, from different perspectives and disciplines, the condition of Hispanics as the century comes to an end," Lange-Churion added. ▼

To register for "Hispanics: Cultural Locations," call (415) 422-2940 or e-mail: hispanic@usfca.edu. The fee is \$65 for students; \$100 for non-students.

Dom. violence

◀ page 1

fore joining in the march.

Another significant finding in the national LGBT domestic violence report is the fact that of the 50 states, seven define domestic violence in such a way that same-gender relationships do not qualify. The remaining 42 states and the District of Columbia may or may not permit same-gender relationships to be considered domestic violence. Merrill said that in California, the law was changed in January 1995 and now includes

any kind of couple.

San Francisco Police Lieutenant Sandra Tong, who heads the department's domestic violence unit, said that during the coming year, training programs will take place for police officers to learn about LGBT awareness. "We're hoping that by doing this, their response to the community will be much more appropriate," Tong said. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

B-52s rock the Silicon Planet, net \$100K+ for Santa Clara County's ARIS

by Vicky Kolakowski

More than 1,200 Silicon Valley denizens attended a high-tech event to raise money for Santa Clara County's largest AIDS service provider Saturday, October 4. "Silicon Planet" was a combined concert, fashion show, cocktail party, art auction, and technology fair, held in a converted warehouse in San Jose.

The 1,000 tickets available to the public, priced at \$100 each, sold out in less than five days, while numerous employees of corporate sponsors received special VIP entrance. The event was expected to raise between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for ARIS, a full-service AIDS agency based in San Jose. ARIS, with a budget of just over \$1.5 million, serves thousands of clients throughout the South Bay.

The event was organized by South Bay philanthropist Tom Hayes of Applied Materials and his wife Debbie, with the help of over a dozen major corporate sponsors.

The crowd at the event at times seemed more Hollywood than Silicon Valley, with a number of entertainment industry wannabes and rising talents schmoozing with the handful of entertainment notables on hand. Silicon Valley execs and techies mingled with stand-up comics and television

actors over sushi and noodles, at the cappuccino bar, or in the cigar salon, an area filled with stylishly dressed stogie fans enjoying music from a separate stage.

At one point, so many people filled the cigar salon that the fire marshals restricted entrance to the area to prevent a fire hazard. Some partygoers spilled out into the street around the warehouse to finish their cigars. Musician and technology buff Todd Rundgren was joined by *Star Trek* star Michael Dorn ("Worf") while Rundgren savored his cigar.

Even the high-tech seemed de-

signed for glitz. Bids on a silent auction for a series of sculptures by local artists, all shaped like chairs, were entered on networked laptops with cellular modems. Demonstrations for the event's numerous corporate sponsors were available on some of the laptops, which some partygoers commanded for web-surfing.

The event was broadcast live over the Internet from the event's web site using state-of-the-art video technology and a roving camera crew. Large screens spread around the warehouse displayed the video transmission for the

partygoers.

Former *Saturday Night Live* star Dennis Miller emceed the evening's entertainment, delighting the crowd with his sarcastic, biting humor. Macy's provided a fashion show of designer clothing, and several bands played on the two stages.

From the reaction of the crowd, all of the entertainment was just a warm-up for the main event. The B-52s played for over 90 minutes in their first West Coast concert in over five years. The well-dressed, largely thirtysomething crowd went wild

over the band, best known for a series of hits in the '80s and early '90s.

The band has a long history of supporting AIDS groups. In 1986, one of the group's founders, guitarist Ricky Wilson, died of an AIDS-related illness. The loss caused the band to split up for the following two years. They subsequently reunited and scored some of their biggest hits with their 1989 album "Cosmic Thing."

The event was so successful that next year's event has already been announced. It will be held Saturday, October 3, 1998. ▼

Silicon Valley Lesbian Network is relaunched

by Liz Doughty

On Thursday, October 2, 70 women gathered to relaunch the Silicon Valley Lesbian Network (SVLN). The meeting was hosted by Oracle Corporation and An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, an international organization established for the express purpose of promoting the civil rights and well-being of lesbians today and for future generations. The event was organized by Ann Mei Chang of Macromedia.

The SVLN was originally founded roughly 10 years ago by lesbians at Apple and Hewlett

Packard. The goal of SVLN is to provide an opportunity for lesbian professionals in the high-tech industry to meet, network, share experiences, and discuss common issues. SVLN has consisted of lesbian and bisexual women in engineering, management, marketing, sales, and finance from a broad spectrum of companies in the Bay Area.

The focal point of Thursday's meeting was a motivational speech from Jessica Stevens, president and founder of Telegen Corporation, a Silicon Valley high technology company. Stevens is well-known for the Human Rights Campaign television com-

mercial she funded with a \$280,000 donation, which first aired on the *Ellen* "coming out" episode. The TV commercial points out the fact that millions of Americans are not aware of laws allowing sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace. Ms. Stevens will soon be joining the board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign.

Stevens's speech discussed the need for more top-level employees to be out in the workplace. She also addressed the controversy surrounding her decision to fund an HRC commercial that ran during the "coming out" episode of *Ellen*. The group listened attentively as

her speech balanced the difficult subject of discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace with anecdotes about the *Ellen* show itself. Stevens also described the challenges of maintaining a high-profile position within the gay and lesbian community while remaining the president and CEO of a public company.

She conceded that the exact location of the famed toaster oven used in the episode is, at this time, unknown. ▼

For more information on SVLN, contact Ann Mei Chang at annmei@macromedia.com

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Dignity seeks pledges for solidarity against violence

by Shan Schwartz

While October 11 is becoming more famous for National Coming Out Day, straight Christians were asked last weekend to "come out" in solidarity with gays and lesbians, specifically against anti-gay verbal and physical violence.

Solidarity Sunday, the Sunday before National Coming Out Day, reaches out to straight Christians nationwide, asking them to wear a rainbow ribbon and accept a pledge to work for civil rights and reject violence, bigotry and hate speech toward any people, including gays and lesbians.

Solidarity Sunday began in 1995 by Dignity/USA, a national Catholic gay and lesbian organization, as a peaceful Christian response to physical and verbal anti-gay violence. Across the country, more than 100,000 pledges and ribbons were expected to be distributed this year.

Here in the Bay Area, members of Dignity/SF distributed about 4,000 rainbow ribbons and pledge cards at churches in San Francisco and in the East Bay last Sunday, as well as at the Folsom and Castro street fairs, said Gino Ramos, co-coordinator for the event with Dignity/SF.

Ramos said several churches in the area were happy to take part in the event. In addition to distributing the pledge cards and ribbons, some churches had special prayers during their services — prayers for an end to anti-gay violence, and prayers for equal civil rights for all.

Solidarity Sunday even has support from Washington, DC, including that of Vice President Al Gore, who has endorsed the event each of the past three years. Ramos said Dignity was excited by the supportive response it gets from government leaders as well as churches.

"Receiving an endorsement letter from Al Gore emphasizes the need for this outreach," Ramos said. "It gives us hope that we may someday defeat senseless

homophobia."

Event coordinators say that despite growing tolerance toward gays, verbal and physical bashing is still a reality. Garrin Benfield, Dignity/SF's other coordinator for Solidarity Sunday, said a survey last spring by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs showed that reported anti-gay violence rose six percent in the previous year.

"Unfortunately, anti-gay violence in action and speech is still

very much alive right now," Benfield said. He pointed out the recent news of California radio talk show host Rich Agozino, who has urged callers to write legislators to request the death penalty for homosexuals, in order to be in accord with so-called biblical law.

But while some religious zealots continue to preach against gays, not all Christian faiths are so adamant against queers, as evidenced by their participation in Solidarity Sunday. Ramos said

that even the Catholic Church, which still considers homosexual acts sinful and immoral, strongly condemns anti-gay violence.

"I think the Catholic Church is more tolerant, at least as far as violence is concerned," Ramos said. "Their rule for years now has been to 'love the sinner, hate the sin,' which still gives me the shivers to think about."

"But it's a lot better than, say, a fundamentalist Baptist, who says the queers are damned to hell." ▀

Bishops' letter is nice but leaves much to be desired

by Shan Schwartz

Gay and lesbian Catholics are reacting with mixed feelings toward a document released last week by US bishops telling parents to love and support their gay children.

Although the letter acknowledges that sexual orientation is not chosen and calls for tolerance and support for gay Catholics, it still holds "homosexual activity" as objectionable.

Charles Cox, executive director of Dignity/USA, a national Catholic gay and lesbian organization, acknowledged the positive tone of the letter and its timeliness — coinciding with October as Gay and Lesbian History Month, Dignity's "Solidarity Sunday" on October 5, and National Coming Out Day on October 11.

"This letter is a positive step, and we commend the bishops for their improved sensitivity to the issues which confront parents

and their lesbian and gay children," Cox said. "But all is not perfect."

The bishop's document, titled "Always Our Children," was approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in September and released to the public last week. It is the product of five years' study by the bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family, which was asked to address the turmoil and pain felt between parents and their gay children.

In the letter, the bishops call on parents to "do everything possible to continue demonstrating love for your child," and advises against any rejection or breaking off contact.

"Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as a given, not as something freely chosen," the bishops wrote. "By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose."

However, the letter does not

any call for any change in Church doctrine, stating clearly that sexual activity between same-sex partners is immoral, and that the letter is not to be understood "as an endorsement of what some would call a 'homosexual lifestyle.'"

The Vatican stands firm in its doctrine that sexual activity is only morally acceptable within the bounds of heterosexual marriage.

'It's a little late'

Robert Mialovich, president of Dignity/USA, said the letter acknowledged real dangers that confront gay and lesbian youth, and it offers some "very practical advice" to both parents and pastors. He said he hopes the letter will lead to improved ministry toward gays and lesbians, and he said Dignity's job would be to hold the bishops to their words.

But Mialovich also pointed out other areas where the bishop's letter was troubling.

"Though the letter is very pastoral, we continue to be disturbed by the bishops' continued distinction between homosexual orientation and homosexual activity," Mialovich said. "This is a distinction that makes little sense to us and will be a stumbling block in the way of any effective pastoral program seeking to encompass the letter's recommendations."

"Further, the letter still leaves parents without guidance on how to respond positively to their children's same-sex relationships."

Cox agreed that the issue of sexual intimacy between gays needs further consideration by the Church.

"The most serious fault we find with the letter is the incomplete explanation and view it provides regarding chastity," he said. "Dignity believes that expressions of love, including sexual intimacy between two individuals of the same sex, can be morally acceptable."

Gino Ramos, member of Dignity/SF, said he really appreciated the bishops' letter, although it was long overdue.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Apuzzo to White House

by Bob Roehr

ongtime lesbian activist Virginia M. Apuzzo will move to the White House as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration, after serving the last year as an associate deputy secretary at the Department of Labor.

According to the October 1 announcement, Apuzzo will oversee administrative functions of the White House complex and have oversight responsibilities for all agencies of the Executive Office of the President. The substance of her responsibilities are smooth operations of the White House as a facility and support mechanism for the president. It is not a policymaking position.

Apuzzo, 56, is a former nun who has built an impressive résumé in both gay activism and Democratic politics. She was executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) from 1983 to 1985. She served New York Governor Mario Cuomo as his liaison to the lesbian and gay community, on the state AIDS Advisory Council, and the Consumer Protection Board. In 1994 she was confirmed as president of the New York State Civil Service Commission.

"She has impeccable professional credentials — that's an activist is icing on the cake," said Kerryn Lobel, executive director of



Virginia M. Apuzzo

the NGLTF.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's Brian Bond said, "By judging applicants on their qualifications rather than their sexual orientation, President Clinton continues to set a shining example for all fair-minded employers to follow."

"We applaud this appointment as yet another step in President Clinton's promise to make his administration look like America," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Right's Campaign. "We look forward to more appointments and nominations of openly gay people in Clinton's second term."

The national gay organizations were united in calling this "the

highest-ranking openly gay appointed official in history." But that label is open to debate. The position does not require confirmation by the Senate, a standard criterion for evaluating pecking order in the Capital.

'They run the agencies'

In making the appointment, the Clinton administration is following what has become a standard tactic: it directly plays to the gay and lesbian community and receives accolades from it. But the focused action draws little attention from the mainstream, attention that might come with an appointment requiring Senate confirmation.

Apuzzo's appointment is a personal triumph. It is symbolically nice for both the Clinton administration and the gay community; access to senior officials, in this case the president, is extremely important. But access alone counts for much less than what one does with that access. It remains to be seen if she can or will use her position to benefit directly the gay and lesbian community at large.

Keith Boykin, executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, worked in the Clinton White House. "In my opinion, it is in many ways more important to have senior positions in the White House," he said, "because, whether or not anybody ever tells you, the White House runs the Cabinet, they run the various agencies and departments." He believes Apuzzo's presence at those daily senior staff meetings will have an impact. ▼

Rights bill

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signed. "Wedge-issue politics and worse," said Laurie McBride, Executive Director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE). "He is threatening the Governor, telling Wilson to veto the bill or 'face the people.' Obviously, Mountjoy doesn't know that every poll for the last six or seven years shows that 70 percent and more of the American public strongly supports nondiscrimination policies for gays and lesbians. He's just beating the same old drum of anti-gay discrimination."

Mountjoy's arguments seem to be based on protection of the rights of landlords and employers. "A landlord or an employer can easily tell a person's gender, ethnicity or approximate age and avoid discrimination against them," he says. "A landlord cannot be expected to know what a tenant does behind closed doors. To make landlords and employers subject to discrimination charges for violating the civil rights based on a tenant's sexual behavior is ridiculous."

McBride panned Mountjoy's faulty logic, saying, "He insults the intelligence of every thinking Californian. First he says being gay is a choice and doesn't deserve protection — choice is only protected if it's religion. Then he says that because an employer can tell a person's gender or ethnicity because that's not a choice, an employer can avoid discriminating against them? Does the Senator mean that discrimination would be okay if the employer couldn't tell? So an employer who doesn't see a job applicant is free to make racial slurs? Or that employers just naturally discriminate except when they are warned by the visible reminder of gender, race, or disability?"

"It is my hope and prayer that



Richard Mountjoy

Governor Wilson will veto AB 257," Mountjoy said in an October 1 press release. Mountjoy noted that the referendum process is "rarely used," all but ignoring the referenda either mounted, threatened, or supported by Christian conservatives on a variety of subjects (i.e., Propositions 187 and 209) in recent years. But he said it is necessary when a bare majority of the legislature and the governor enact laws that run counter to the desires of the people of California.

"If the Governor signs AB 257 into law, the drive to gather signatures to place this referendum on the ballot will begin as soon as the attorney general prepares the official title and summary," Mountjoy said.

McBride said, "What an idiotic and perverse thing to say. But then, Mountjoy never met a civil rights law that he liked." ▼

The deadline for Wilson to sign or veto AB 257 is midnight, October 13. McBride urges readers to send letters of support for AB 257 to:
Governor Pete Wilson, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, with carbon copies to LIFE Lobby, 1301 H St., Sacramento, CA 95814, and to Wilson's Deputy, Michael Sweet, at the governor's address.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Paul Emory

September 16, 1997



Paul lived his time with us in a unique and spontaneous way. When he first arrived in the Bay Area from Louisiana in the early 1980s, he had a hard time getting used to the City. His goal was to find a quiet spot in the country to call home, and eventually he moved to the Russian River, living mostly in Guerneville.

Paul worked for some of the resorts at the River, and was a loyal and responsible employee. For a short time he was the manager of The Woods Resort. He was well known to River residents and was a contact for visitors who wanted to make their stay in the Guerneville area more enjoyable. Living with HIV during the last few years was difficult, but his constant and strong spirituality saw him through many painful episodes of ill health. He always seemed to bounce back.

Paul was a kind and trustworthy friend to many of us – sharing his unique perspective on life, joking with us, offering us his homespun Southern wisdom. Those of us who knew and

loved Paul will miss him very much, but where he is now is the start of a new adventure.

Marco Antonio Calixto M.

August 28, 1997

Our very dear friend Marco passed away suddenly at Alta Bates Hospital after a month's illness. In a most difficult situation, he showed the grace and consideration for which he was always known.

Born in Veracruz, Marco held a B.A. in business and worked in banking in Mexico. He spent three years with a lover in Montreal and five years in the Bay Area. Marco was a master designer and creator of clothes; his award-winning Halloween costumes will be sorely missed – as will his beautiful smile and impish sense of humor.

Vaya con dios, hijo. Vaya con paz. Vaya con nuestro amor!

Tom Charles Papera M.D.

June 23, 1948 – Sept. 29, 1997

Tom Charles Papera died September 29 after a long, courageous battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. His lover, Elliot Block, was at his bedside at their home. Tom leaves behind his devoted friends, Bill, Paul, Kathy, Cheryl and Jimmy; his sister, Donna; and her family.

Tom was a radiologist who passionately cared for his patients and staff. He also had a tremendous lust for life and an irreverent sense of humor. Tom was the original "Nasty Boy."

Elliot would like to thank his friends at Kairos for their support and compassion; we could not have come through this without them. Contributions can be made in Tom's memory to the Forbes Norris MDA/ALS Clinic, 2324 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94115. A memorial service will be held at the Swedenborgian Church (Lyon and Washington sts.) on Saturday, October 18, at 7 p.m.

James Arnold Robillard

Sept. 15, 1961 – Sept. 17, 1997

Jim was a native of California. He was born in Long Beach, raised in Lakewood, and finally came to make his home in San Francisco, where he resided for the past 15 years.

On September 17, two days after his birthday, Jim left our world with grace and in peace due to complications related to AIDS. Since his diagnosis eight years ago, Jim's love of life never wavered. His concerns were only for his family, friends and all those he held so dear. After the passing of his brother, Daniel (also to AIDS), Jim's family is comforted to know the two shall be together again in spirit eternally in the National AIDS Memorial Grove.

Jim's gift of love and laughter continues in the hearts of his partner, Kelly Shepard; parents, Louis and Lois; sister, Helen; brothers, Paul, Kenn, David and Larry; nephew, John; niece, Dani – as well as a multitude of friends and relatives.

As his partner, Jim shone into my life for three wonderful years. To you, Jim, I am truly thankful, for I have been blessed. I have held a rainbow.



Jo Daly

Jo Daly dies at 51

by Dennis Conkin

A memorial service honoring the life of longtime San Francisco lesbian political activist and community leader Jo Daly will be held at 12 noon next Saturday, October 18 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street.

Daly died Friday, October 3 following a long battle with cancer. She was 51 years old.

A founding member of the Alice B. Toklas Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, chartered in 1972, Daly was active in local Democratic politics and served as an elected delegate to three Democratic National Conventions. Daly also served terms as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee, the state chair of California Democratic Council Gay Caucus, and co-chair of the Northern California CDC Gay Caucus.

Daly was named to the city's Human Rights Commission staff in 1977 and staffed the agency's lesbian and gay advisory committee.

Appointed to the city's Planning Commission in 1979 by then San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Daly served a six-month stint on the board before Feinstein appointed her to the Police Commission, where she served until 1981.

Daly and two other commissioners were replaced by Feinstein in a shake-up of the commission in 1986, but longtime friend and political associate Duke Smith, also a founding Toklas Club member, denied reports that Daly was ousted.

"She resigned for personal and health reasons," Smith told the Bay Area Reporter. "Jo and I were good friends. We're the last of an

next page ►

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THE WAY YOU WORE YOUR HAT
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THE MEMORY OF ALL THAT
NO, THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME

THE WAY YOUR SMILE JUST BEAMED
THE WAY YOU SANG OFF KEY
THE WAY YOU HAUNT MY DREAMS
NO, THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME

WE MAY NEVER, NEVER MEET AGAIN ON THAT BUMPY ROAD TO LOVE
BUT I'LL ALWAYS, ALWAYS KEEP THE MEMORY OF...

THE WAY YOU HELD YOUR KNIFE
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THE WAY YOU CHANGED MY LIFE
NO, THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME
NO, THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME

Viraceuticals: A new technology for fighting HIV

by Matthew Sharp, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Advances in HIV treatment to this point have been mostly in pharmaceuticals. We live in a culture that is used to taking a pill for whatever ails us. Designing pills to swallow is practical, more profitable, and easier for industry. Therefore, AIDS research has more or less followed this paradigm. Research into new treatment mechanisms is painfully slow, if not non-existent.

Now, because of the expense and availability of the new therapies, other ways to fight HIV must be employed that target HIV in people at all levels of disease, all over the world. Advances in understanding the way HIV attaches to cells through chemokine co-receptors has opened up the field in creating new drugs to block these receptors. With this new understanding of co-receptors and the use of CD4 receptors, researchers are also developing techniques to modify genes on non-HIV viruses that could be made to attach to the cell surface of HIV-infected cells and go on to kill them.

This fascinating research using engineered viruses to target and destroy HIV-infected cells is under way. Although the research is futuristic and not without risks, it is a bold, creative leap into a relatively simple way to kill HIV-infected cells, and an interesting foray into new modalities for HIV treatment.

Rabies for what ails you

Two research teams from the Yale University Department of Genetics and the Federal Research Center for Virus Diseases of Animals from Tübingen, Germany are looking at gene modification strategies that use engineered viruses capable of seeking out and killing HIV-infected cells. The German team is working with the rabies virus, and the Yale team is studying the effects of this modification in a rabies cousin that infects livestock animals, called vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV).

Here's how it works:

The technique involves using the same receptors that HIV uses to grab onto a cell and infect it, the CD4 receptor and the recently-discovered CXCR4 chemokine co-receptor. Think of these receptors as keys that are needed for entry into the locks of a human cell. The genes for these receptors are added to the rabies or VSV virus, which are placed in cultures containing HIV-infected cells. The engineered cells will now be able to attach and enter those HIV cells that express the necessary cell surface protein,

gp120 and gp41. The foreign virus then attaches to, enters, and kills the HIV-infected cell.

In effect, the engineered virus now employs the same technique HIV uses to infect human cells. In the Yale experiments, human T-cell lines were infected with a laboratory strain of HIV. To half of those cells they added the modified VSV cells, and slashed infectious HIV at least 300- to 10,000-fold lower than HIV control cells. The German team found similar results by infecting a T-cell culture with their engineered rabies virus. The cells rapidly dropped infectious HIV by 1,000-fold. Low level "bursts" of HIV over a 30-day period were apparently squelched by remaining engineered virus.

The exciting results were reported in the September 5 issue of *Cell*.

Risk factors

There are a number of risks to the approach, but there are also safeguards against the risks, which would be necessary for an immunocompromised person to chance infection from another virus. The engineered virus is designed to attach only to HIV cells, not to healthy bystander cells, therefore eliminating the possibility of infection. Healthy cells in your body would not be affected, but the HIV cells that now contain the engineered virus would be killed. Also, the VSV virus only causes disease in livestock animals, and not in humans. The question of these engineered viruses developing resistance is probably not an issue, because if the genes for these receptors were able to mutate, HIV wouldn't be able to perpetuate itself, since the receptors wouldn't be there.

Interestingly, once this virus is inside the HIV-infected cell, it can replicate and continue to infect other HIV cells, possibly eradicating all HIV-infected CD4 cells. Not only will it select and kill once, but also it will continue to do its job. This raises questions about the evolution of the engineered virus once it's going around killing HIV. There could be danger if the virus mutates.

The FDA will definitely ask questions about the risks, and could even delay progress in this field. ACT UP/Golden Gate was successful, however, in moving research forward in the baboon bone marrow experiment in which the FDA was concerned about the possible threat of exposure to unknown animal viruses.

This, fortunately, did not happen. The engineered virus experiment is risky, however, and poses different problems in terms of unknown mutations that may arise. But if we don't go forward with clinical trials, as we forced in the baboon bone marrow transplant experiment, people with AIDS may never gain the benefit of this possible breakthrough.

This research has not been tested in humans. It is going forward in monkeys, but due to the many ethical, regulatory, and logistical problems, trials in humans are not going to happen soon. There are risks with exposing the patient to the virus, and also to any HIV-positive sexual partner of that patient.

Fertile liposomes

One way around dealing with a so-called uncontrollable virus is by developing drug candidates in liposomes that can use the same delivery mechanism that targets HIV-infected cells. Trading live viruses for liposome drug delivery would eliminate the problems with using viruses, and make antiviral therapy more direct.

Gary Nolan, a molecular biologist at Stanford University, has been working in this field of research for months. In his article in *Cell*, "Har-

nessing Viral Devices as Pharmaceuticals: Fighting HIV-1's Fire with Fire," Nolan says, "It is even possible to create simple non-viral devices that incorporate several HIV-1 chemokine receptors along with CD4 to target all cell types infected expressing gp120 and gp41. The merging of the fields of pharmaceuticals with these delivery approaches gleaned from studying viral entry is fertile ground for ad-

vances in therapeutics."

The research is new and hopes are high, but there is a long way to go before this fascinating approach to both drug delivery and selective HIV killing can be employed. It is promising to know that work in this field is moving forward and gaining notice in an era where many people have failed the ever-present antiviral pill-popping. ▼



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Jo Daly

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early '70s core group that went further into the political process and gay rights."

Forced by cancer to withdraw from her political activities in the last years of her life, Daly later became a strong advocate for Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative passed by a 56 percent margin of California voters last November.

Daly testified about medical marijuana before state legislators and during hearings held last year

by Supervisor Tom Ammiano about the benefits of the plant in relieving pain and easing the side effects of chemotherapy.

Daly is survived by her mother Charlotte G. Daly, a brother Christopher, her aunt Sister Rosa, and an extended family in San Francisco. ▼

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Women's Cancer Research Center of Berkeley, California or to Lyon-Martin's Women Health Service, at 1147 Market Street in San Francisco, are preferred.

Oars of Babylon

by Jim Provenzano

Something primal – indigenous – lies beneath the skin of a kayak, even if these days they're made of polyurethane-something. It seems appropriate to kayak here near the Pacific Northwest, where kayaking's origins as the preferred aquatic means of travel by Native Americans, or First Americans, came from areas with names like Nootka and Chugach.

If paddling while seated sounds easy, it is, to an extent. Kayaking is not as strenuous as rowing on a crew team, yet it provides a full upper body workout. And working out in the great outdoors beats sweating under the harsh fluorescent lights of your local gym any day.

Precisely the thoughts of Ken Brunt, who created OutSide Sports. In the fall of 1995, Brunt started doing bike tours along the Sonoma coast and eventually added kayaking trips, too. The kayaking trips have surpassed others in popularity. With group overnight trips ranging from twelve to sixteen people and traveling to the North Bay, Marin County, and Sonoma County, the trips provide a convenient way to get out in the local countryside.

"They're mostly newcomers," Ken said. "Ninety percent have never been out. I do get recurring business, but a lot of people are

interested in the concept of providing alternatives for the gay community to get out and do something different."

As a biker for 15 years, Brunt was one of the originators of the AIDS Ride. "It evolved into something else, so I started my own bike tours. I found out people are interested in traveling. The kayaking trips are our way to get to the destination. We meet a diverse crowd of people; doctors, lawyers, dog trainers. It's fun to see where people come from."

Brunt is quick to dispel the rumors about "Eskimo rolls," that rare moment where a kayak overturns, leaving the kayaker underwater. "That's more typical of whitewater kayaking. I wanna get people comfortable knowing that the boats are really stable, they track really well." Novices also get in double kayaks, making it even safer.

One novice is Naomi Torres. A San Franciscan for nine years, she also runs, bikes, and hikes. "I'd been in a canoe accident, so I was really afraid," Torres said. "But Ken was really reassuring, really great about checking in. I felt confident in his knowledge of kayaking."

"Besides," Brunt added, "capsize is not really frequent. You just get wet. The most opportune time to flip is getting ashore or leaving. Generally, once they get in, they're amazed at how smooth



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a motion it is. It's not as rigorous, especially in doubles, and it really glides well."

Another novice, Benjamin Moser, has done some whitewater rafting in the American River, but only recently kayaked. As a guy who bikes and goes to the gym, it was a perfect amount of workout for him, and very enjoyable. "I did an overnight trip to Tomales Bay in a two-person kayak," he said, joking that he didn't have to work very hard. "All you have to do is splash around and the front guy does all the work!"

One of the more experienced kayakers, Teryl George lives in West Marin, and was born and raised in the Bay Area. She's kayaked for twenty years in Canada and Washington, and has taken several OutSide Sports trips.

"I love anything on the water," she said. "My first experience was river kayaking. I moved to sea kayaking when I lived on Puget Sound." When asked what attracted her to the sport, she said, "It

makes sense when you live around the water." Teryl also kayaks with Blue Waters, another kayaking company. "They have a great group of people," she said, but highly recommends OutSide Sports trips as well, mentioning the invigorating workout. "We ripped around Tomales Bay in one day."

"Kayaking keeps your upper body going," she said, mentioning her other physical pursuits: hiking, biking, and yoga. "The trips we do are in calm water. In Baja, sometimes the weather changes, you have to know when to get out."

Brunt also emphasized the glory of the environment they traverse on these trips. "There's a whole bunch of waterways out here that are not well-traveled. We can go out camping and not see a soul, especially estuaries and little slugs, you just see other kayakers. It's a really nice group of people. They're generally grounded, outdoors oriented, very friendly people. Even with others, there's not homophobia. It's never been an issue."

Trips to come

One of the new trips includes an eight-day expedition to the sea of Cortez in April 1998, a leisurely run with time for snorkeling and beaching in Baja California. Other trips may happen over the winter season but aren't planned

yet. "It's actually a better time to kayak," Ken said, "since the sun is less harsh."

Their upcoming Point Reyes trip will tour through the pristine estuary of oyster beds, white pelicans, buffleheads, and harbor seals. The cost is \$96 and includes kayaks & kayaking gear, instruction, guides, and a delicious lunch. These trips are limited to 12 participants only, so while it's group-oriented, there's still a feeling of intimacy among the wildlife.

Upcoming kayaking runs:

- The Navigator — Saturday, October 11 to Sunday, October 12 at The Estero Americano.

- The Glider — Sunday, October 19 at Drakes Estero in Point Reyes.

For more info, call (415) 864-7205, e-mail outsport@hooked.net, or visit their website at http://www.hooked.net/users/out_sport

Ski fever!

The kick-off meeting of Skiers And Gay Athletes, more commonly known as SAGA North, will take place this Sunday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m., at Fort Mason, Building C, Room 260. Get information on all of SAGA's upcoming ski trips to Aspen, Squaw Valley, Northstar, Jackson Hole and more. Info: <http://www.saganorth.com>, or e-mail saganorth@logx.com, or call (415) 995-2772. ▼

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Dateline Amsterdam: Volunteers sought for Gay Games V

by Paul van Yperen

This week the 1,000th volunteer was welcomed to Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, an important milestone. Two hundred thousand visitors and 15,000 participants are expected next year in Amsterdam for Gay Games V. For the Gay Games, it may break all records.

Currently, more than 8,000 participants have already registered in 30 competition sports, six demonstration sports, 20 Community Art projects, 30 exhibitions, and four festivals. Many parties are also being organized. Volunteers are organizing these events, supervised by only 20 professionals. In total, 2,500 volunteers are needed; Americans are very welcome to join as volunteers.

The coordinator for volunteers is Lianne Postma. "During Gay Games, extra people are needed for practical support (decorating, cleaning and other practical activities), for medical assistance, and for security and surveillance," she said. "Furthermore, we need interpreters for deaf persons, and chauffeurs." Gay Games offers special clothing, beverages, and food for volunteers, and they'll receive help in finding housing.

Friendship Village, a wonderful village with fountains and mirror balls in the heart of Amsterdam, will be the meeting point for volunteers. Joan, who was a volunteer at Gay Games IV, assures potential volunteers that it's really a special way to experience the event. ▼

Interested people should visit the Gay Games V website at www.gaygames.nl, or dial the call center in Amsterdam at 0-11-31-20-427-1998. (That number includes all necessary international and city calling codes.) Please remember the time is nine hours later there.

Carnal Carnival and Sex/life classes make learning fun

by Liz Highleyman

The months of October and November will feature a series of sex-related activities, forums, discussion groups, and educational workshops for gay and bisexual men, beginning with the Carnal Carnival this Sunday, October 12. The events are sponsored jointly by the Stop AIDS Project, Scarlet Letter Services, the Harvey Milk Institute, and Eros, Center for Safe Sex.

This year's Carnal Carnival — the fourth such event — will take place Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at Eros, located at 2051 Market Street. Admission is free before 4 p.m. The event will feature "wild, explicit, hands-on" activities including sex demonstrations, safe sex games, prizes, porn, and community group representatives. Special guests include Race Bannon, Cornelius Conboy, Joey Faria, Peter Fiske, Steve Gaynes, Irwin Kane, and Dr. Woof.

The carnival kicks off a month-long series of Sex/life classes focusing on a variety of aspects of gay men's sex and life. On October 15 is "Erotic Self Loving,"

a masturbation workshop led by renowned sex educator Joseph Kramer of the EroSpirit Research Institute. October 16 is "Challenges of Mixed Status Dating," with Frank Strona and Chuck Fruthey.

On Saturday, October 18, the Stop AIDS Project will sponsor an open town forum entitled "Stick It In: Video Sex and Your Sex Life." This forum will feature porn video clips and a panel discussion on how porn affects who gay men choose as sex partners and the type of sex and relationships they have. This free event will be held at 2 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street.

On October 21, Eros owner Buzz Bense and Scott Eaton lead a workshop on "LTR: Making Sexual Agreements," focusing on long-term relationships. On October 22, Strona presents "SM 101: Learners Permit Program for Fetish and SM." Josh Bottfield leads a roundtable discussion entitled "I Just Tested HIV Negative...Is Anyone Listening?" on October 28. On October 29, the topic is "When Desire Wanes," a discussion about changing relationships led by Bense and psy-

chotherapist Tom Moon. The final October workshop is "I'm Beautiful, Dammit!" presented by Hector Carillo of the Stop AIDS Project on October 30.

The November workshops begin on November 5 with "So Many Men, So Little Company," also presented by Carillo. On November 6, Strona leads a workshop on sex club etiquette entitled "Spice Up Your Nights." November 9 features "Man Massage: Adventures in Touch," led by Eros staff massage therapists. On November 10, Strona and FTM educator Matt Rice present "FTM Sexuality and Sexual Techniques," a workshop for transgendered men and the queer men they have sex with. November 12 is "Completing Relationships/Ending Cycles," with Kurt Wagner. The second "Man Massage" workshop takes place on November 16. On November 18, David Silven of the UCSF AIDS Health Project presents "Sex After 40: Changing Needs, Changing Responses." Bense presents "Journey to Your Anus," an "introduction to the butt hole," on November 19. Finally, on November 20, Strona and Don George present "Big Doin's

for Big Bruins: Fetish and Kink for Bears and Big Men."

All Sex/life workshops and discussions (except the porn forum) take place at Eros. Most are at 7 p.m., except the massage workshops, which take place at 3 p.m. All programs are \$15, except for Carillo's October 30 and November 5 workshops, which are free. ▼

To register, call the Harvey Milk Institute at (415) 552-7200. For more information about programs, visit the website at <http://members.aol.com/CarnalCarnival.html> or call (415) 255-4921. For more information about the event at MCC, call (415) 621-7177.

Bishops' letter

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"My only regret is that it's a little late for those of us in our 30s, 40s, 50s, who have been hurt by it with our coming out to our parents in the past," he said. "A lot of us have been shunned away, left out in the cold."

Ramos said he thought Church leaders cannot ask its gay and lesbian members to deny an integral part of themselves, their sexuality.

"I think they still have a long way to go to accept the homosexual and everything they represent, including spirituality and sexuality at the same time," Ramos said. "I accept my totality

in the light of God, as His creation. I can't accept one aspect of myself and shun the other. I cannot replace my sexuality and still be myself."

Gay Catholic leaders hope this letter is just one step in further progress that will be made for the Church to properly minister to its queer members.

"Dignity/USA is pleased with the tone and content of 'Always Our Children,'" Cox said. "Our hope is that this letter is only the beginning of a more open and fruitful dialogue between gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons, and the Catholic Church. Dignity looks forward to meeting the outstretched hand of invitation offered by the bishops." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217330
The following person(s) are doing business as CASTROBEAR PRESENTS..., 584 Castro St. #374, San Francisco, CA 94114; Harry M. Lit, 2379 15th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Harry M. Lit. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 15, 1997.
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 215241
The following person(s) are doing business as TARVER PSYCHIATRIC CARE, 295 Fell St., Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94102; Donald E. Tarver II, M.D., 37 States St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Donald E. Tarver II, M.D. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 27, 1997.
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 989337
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of SCOTT JAMES TALBOT for change of name. The application of SCOTT JAMES TALBOT for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SCOTT JAMES TALBOT has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to SCOTT MILLER FIORE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 1st day of December, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 23rd day of September, 1997.
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 1997.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: Sept. 5, 1997. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: POWERHOUSE PARTNERS INC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 900 NORTH POINT ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109. For the following type of License: 47 ON-SALE GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT PLACE. SAN FRANCISCO District Office, 185 BERRY ST. STE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107, (415) 557-3660
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217456
The following person(s) are doing business as MAYTA COMMERCIAL, 11 Merlin St., San Francisco, CA 94107; Louis Thomas Maya, 1548 Hoover Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 18, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Lou Maya. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 18, 1997.
Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217377
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. SMMBS, 2. SHOW ME THE MONEY BILLING SERVICE, 33 Harriet St. #5, San Francisco, CA 94103; Ron L. Pendell, 33 Harriet St. #5, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 29, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Paul Matalucci. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 29, 1997.
Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217610
The following person(s) are doing business as BOT N ZIP, 5491 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112; Raquel Centinaje, 30 Hahn St., San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 25, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Raquel Centinaje. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 27, 1997.
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 989778
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of SCOTT JAMES TALBOT for change of name. The application of SCOTT JAMES TALBOT for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SCOTT JAMES TALBOT has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to SCOTT MILLER FIORE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 1st day of December, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 23rd day of September, 1997.
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 1997.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: Sept. 5, 1997. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: POWERHOUSE PARTNERS INC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 900 NORTH POINT ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109. For the following type of License: 47 ON-SALE GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT PLACE. SAN FRANCISCO District Office, 185 BERRY ST. STE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107, (415) 557-3660
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 216910
The following person(s) are doing business as HYDE-4-U-FINE FOODS, 125 Hyde Street, San Francisco, CA 94142; Yehya Abdulla Hassan, 2278 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Yehya Hassan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 27, 1997.
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217610
The following person(s) are doing business as HYDE-4-U-FINE FOODS, 125 Hyde Street, San Francisco, CA 94142; Yehya Abdulla Hassan, 2278 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Yehya Hassan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 27, 1997.
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application: Sept. 25, 1997. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: HASSAN YEHYA ABDULLA The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 125 HYDE ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102. For the following type of License: 20.0 FE SALE BEER AND WINE. SAN FRANCISCO District Office, 185 BERRY ST. STE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107, (415) 557-3660
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 989933
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of 1. CRYSTAL-MARIE TAUMAUCA TALALOUTO 2. JESSICA-ANGELIQUE TALALOUTO 3. DA'LEAH BRITTANI RANDALL for change of name. The application of 1. CRYSTAL-MARIE TAUMAUCA TALALOUTO 2. JESSICA-ANGELIQUE TALALOUTO 3. DA'LEAH BRITTANI RANDALL AND THROUGH THEIR MOTHER, LUCILLE for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that LUCILLE M. VALDIVIA has filed an application proposing that THEIR names be changed to 1. CRYSTAL MARIE VALDIVIA, 2. JESSICA ANGELIQUE VALDIVIA, 3. DA'LEAH BRITTANI VALDIVIA. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 6th day of November, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 4th day of September, 1997.
Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 21788
The following person(s) are doing business as DEPARTMENT X, 151 Rankin St., San Francisco, CA 94124; Jonathan Searels, 13413 Skyline Blvd, Woodside, CA 94062; Mitchel Romanauskis, 112 Coleridge St., San Francisco, CA 94110; James Hyman, 59 Newburg St., San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of October 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Mitchel Romanauskis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco, CA on October 2, 1997.
Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217808
The following person(s) are doing business as WEBSNORKELERS, 1285 Oak St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94117; William O'Connell, 1285 Oak St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of October 2, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed William O'Connell. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 2, 1997.
Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 217898
The following person(s) are doing business as SUNSHINE FLOWERS, 1155 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103; Albert Harold Schreiber, 263 Clinton Park #F, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Albert H. Schreiber. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 7, 1997.
Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 1997.

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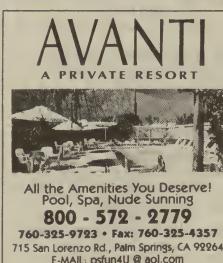
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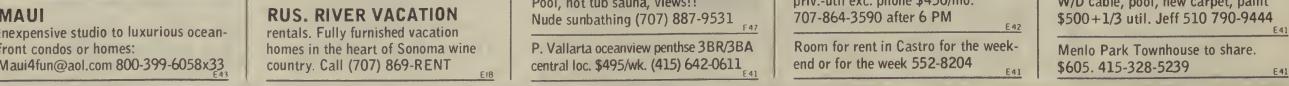
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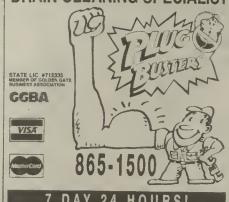
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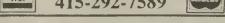
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James Morris tries valiantly to make 'Flying Dutchman' soar; Jeffrey Kennedy goes gaga over Dusty Springfield.

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Chris Komater show at Sweetow Gallery dissects masculine desire.

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Victoria Brownworth chats with 'A/K/A' author Ruthann Robson.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 41 • 9 October 1997

Fresh lilies

by Gary Morris

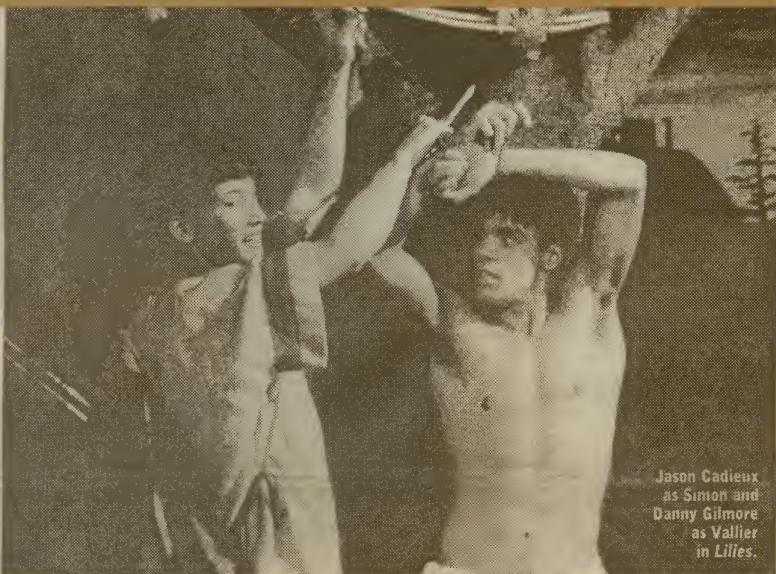
John Greyson's 'Lilies': beautiful but cold tableaux

Queer Canadian filmmaker John Greyson (*Zero Patience, Uncut*) has been criticized—and dismissed by some—as too cerebral and too cold. His critics won't find much reason to revise their opinion with his new film, *Lilies*, in spite of a strong theatrical pedigree and the Canadian equivalent of the Academy Award for Best Picture. On the other hand, anyone interested in the painterly possibilities of movies, or that nebulous entity known as the New Queer Cinema, or—what the heck—beautiful men, will find suitable distraction in this lush, literate, if ultimately unaffectionate mix of Genet, Brecht, and Ronald Firbank.

Adapted by Michel Marc Bouchard from his play *Les Feluettes*, *Lilies* opens in a small Quebec prison in 1952. A group of inmates is staging a play, and no ordinary one. They've bribed the guards, co-opted the chaplain, and lured the powerful bishop Bilodeau (Marcel Sabourin) with the supposed purpose of taking the confession of a dying prisoner, Simon (Aubert Pallascio). Once inside, the bishop is kidnapped, forced to watch an "entertainment" devised by Simon that is actually an exploration of their mutual tragic history. In 1912, 18-year-olds Bilodeau (Matthew Ferguson), Simon (the gorgeous, dark-eyed Jason Cadeux), and Vallier (Danny Gilmore) were joined in a lethal gay triangle, with Simon the understandable object of both the other men's lust and love.

From the grimy walls of the prison, Greyson takes us to the richly imagined never-never land of Roberval, a village in northern

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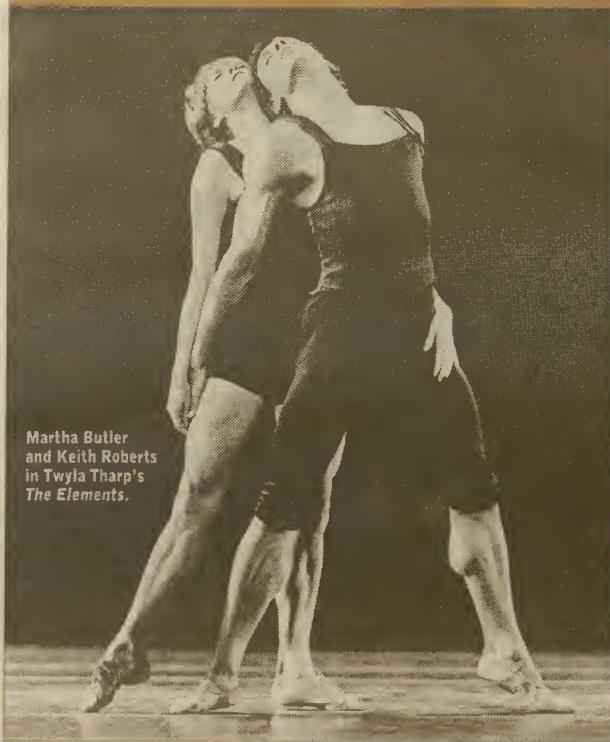


Jason Cadeux
as Simon and
Danny Gilmore
as Vallier
in *Lilies*.

Bourées and bon-bons

American Ballet Theatre comes to Zellerbach

by Stephanie von Buchau



Martha Butler
and Keith Roberts
in Twyla Tharp's
The Elements.

Sure, Bay Area balletomanes were ecstatic to have American Ballet Theatre back after a five-year hiatus, but did the daily papers have to slobber so? After all, ABT's opener on Friday's program at Zellerbach Hall, Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, is also in the current repertory of the San Francisco Ballet, where it is not only better dressed and danced, but better played and conducted. You'd have thought some scribe would make the obvious connection.

Friday's *Theme and Variations* looked stunted on Zellerbach's squat stage. I also wonder why ABT ballerinas wear such heavily-blocked toe shoes when Zellerbach supposedly has one of the best-sprung dance stages in America? A cynical observer suggested that it might be the result of an "economy move" by the financially-strapped company (if the girls don't soften the toes of their shoes with a hammer before wearing them, the shoes last three times as long). The blocked shoes sound like a herd of wildebeests *bouréeing* through a quiet section of *Theme*.

But thumping toe shoes are only of interest to professionals. Most of Friday's cheering crowd were dance lovers who grew up here in the '60s and '70s, when the Kirov, Bolshoi, Royal Ballet, the Danes, ABT, Joffrey, Harkness, Stuttgart, and other companies regularly visited the Bay Area. As good as SFB has been at filling the gap, we can't help missing those great companies and their glittering stars. American Ballet Theatre went through financial and artistic hell when Baryshnikov was its director, but former dancer Kevin McKenzie seems to have righted the ship by restoring some of the old values, starting with star dancers who can dance—not just glitter.

Opening night, ABT offered a series of bon-bons. As bad as the Minkus and Adam music is for *Don Quixote* and *Le Corsaire*, these hoary pieces are scrumptious vehicles for star talents; they also separate the sheep from the goats. The audience went bananas (and correctly) for ABT's sizzling young Latin couple, Paloma Herrera and Angel Corrella, in the *Don Q.* pas de deux. These fizzy dancers, both just 21, not only have technique to burn, they also have enough old-world charm and soul to make this creaky piece come to life.

The American's just don't cut it. Ethan Stiefel, a guy with beautiful feet and a gorgeous line that he learned at New York City Ballet, was a damp firecracker in the preposterous *Le Corsaire* pas de deux (with the ice queen Susan Jaffe). You need the vulgar masculinity of a Ruzimahov or Muhkemedov to bring off such a silly piece. American Keith Roberts had the same problem. He looked like a lunk in the Balanchine/Tchaikovsky pas de deux, but in Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free* he was totally at home in the idiom. With his tight

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

Marc Huestis, that master of San Francisco spectacle, has been awfully busy lately preparing for his next big Castro Theatre extravaganza, "Christmas with Christina Crawford," set for Friday, December 19 (7 p.m.). Surely the darkest yuletide celebration of this or any Christmas season, the evening will feature a screening of the film *Mommie Dearest*, based on darling Christina's book about troubled mama **Joan Crawford**, in addition to an onstage interview with Christina herself, who may or may not know that she is leaving her quiet farm in Idaho to spend an evening with several thousand screaming queens who find no end of titillation in seeing **Joan Crawford** implode before their very eyes.



Marc Huestis

Mara Hobel

But Christina Crawford is just the half of it. Last week, Huestis traveled to New York to meet with actress **Mara Hobel**, who played young Christina in the film (**Diana Scarwid** played the teenage Christina). Huestis was hoping to convince Hobel, now 26, to fly out for the event so that she could relate to us in person what it was like having a can of Comet cracked across her back by **Faye Dunaway**, but, alas, Mara's busy acting schedule didn't permit this fascinating trip down memory lane. So instead, Huestis will show a taped interview he made with Hobel while in New York. We've just seen the tape and must say it's quite interesting, chock-full of fascinating tidbits about the making of the film. For instance, you probably didn't know that Hobel is allergic to cleanser, so when it came time to shoot that unforgettable scene in which Joan goes berserk with the Comet, hurling it every which way around an exquisitely-appointed, blue-tiled bathroom, the cleaning agent was replaced with flour and starch. What was it like working with Queen Faye and director **Frank Perry**? Well, you'll just have to buy a ticket to "Christmas with Christina Crawford" and find out for yourself. Tickets are going fast, so call 863-0611 and reserve yours today.

By the way, Huestis says questions will not be taken from the audience at the December 19 event, but if there's something you've been itching to ask Tina, you can fax in your questions in advance of the event to the aforementioned number.

Crawford double runs amok

Speaking of grand divas going haywire ... seems that an overpowering Hollywood megadiva — this is an endangered species, so you must know who we're talking about — made her much younger male co-star in a forth-

Mara Hobel, Jeremy Reinbolt, and Faye Dunaway in *Mommie Dearest*.

coming film so crazy with her unprovoked personal attacks that he lost composure one day and began chasing her around the set threatening bodily harm. The actress in question was apparently so scared for her life that she locked herself in a broom closet until stunned underlings could calm the actor's frayed nerves. Word has it that the actress sought legal action against the actor, but lawyers became wary of the case when they realized that everyone who worked on the film sympathized with his actions.

Who is this diva? Three hints: she won a Best Actress Oscar in the late '70s, she's very particular about "the fish of the day" when staying in four-star hotels, and she recently sued a very powerful celebrity for breach of contract. Could it be ... ?

What's the big deal?

We were shocked to discover while reading *Variety* last week that **Tony Vitale**'s sweet film *Kiss Me, Guido*, which we thought would surely do some lively crossover business, has barely made a dent in the box office. After 10 weeks in commercial release, the film has only grossed a little over \$1.5 million, despite a feel-good story and a thoroughly engaging — nay entrancing — star, **Nick Scotti**. Though Vitale's film was independently made and produced, Paramount assumed control of the flick after it was screened at Sundance. Surely had

Paramount put the same promotional guns behind *Guide* that it put behind its more recent queer product, *In & Out*, the company would be savoring the rewards of two hits instead of one. And

in case anyone doesn't yet know, *In & Out* has been a big hit, doing more than \$19.1 million in its first week of business. Would someone please tell us what **Kevin Kline** and **Tom Selleck** have that **Nick Scotti** doesn't?

Personally, we thought *In & Out* was a big treatfest, and so did **B.A.R.'s Gary Morris**, who pretty much dismissed it with a few well-chosen words. Though several outraged apologists for blather have told us that we were the only paper in the world that thumb-downed *In & Out*, this is inaccurate. The *East Bay Express* didn't like it either, and in fact ran the nastiest notice we've read yet. According to the *Express*, *In & Out* is a "chicken-hearted, maudlin, mush-filled, pantywaist comedy" whose "hideously heartwarming screenplay is filled with one howler after another." Kevin Kline enacts his part with "the ardor of a caged lab rat," and **Joan Cusack** and Tom Selleck lend a tiny bit of credibility to this hilariously dorky public service announcement.

The most pathetic thing we read about *In & Out* is out of the pages of *The Bay Guardian*, whose reviewer (not Dennis Har-

vey) called the film "engaging froth, as sweet as an ear of fresh-picked Midwestern corn." Bucket, please.

Dadaist blather or just plain shit?

Actor **Kevin Spacey** is gay? Well, yes, if you believe the gussied-up gossip posing as truth in *Esquire*'s October cover story on the actor ("Kevin Spacey Has a Secret"). We call the piece gossip because its author, **Tom Junod**, avoids concrete facts, preferring instead to write around the truth in order to be coy and provocative. The piece never gets beyond the sort of opaque blather of the following passage: "He came out last spring ... when he had no more use for his disguises, when he relaxed by drinking a few vodka-and-tonics and then stood up and finally allowed people to see him for what he was, or at least what he had become."

But Junod never gets around to saying what Spacey was or what he had become. Instead he just repeats over and over that a persistent rumor suggests the actor is gay, which proves nothing, save that *Esquire* is attempting to peddle rumors for truth, gossip for gospel. Spacey has dismissed the article as "dishonest and malicious," comparing it to a communist witch-hunt. In a statement released to the press last week, the actor said, "Esquire has made it abundantly clear that [it has] now joined the ranks of distasteful journalism, and this mean-spirited, homophobic, offensive article proves that the legacy of **Joseph McCarthy** is alive and well."

Esquire editor **David Granger** apparently told the *New York Post*

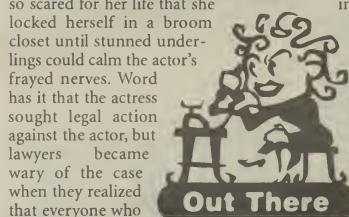


that criticism over the article is "bull," and that his mag isn't "peddling rumors." He then contradicted himself by saying "the lead is about rumors, and it's acknowledged in every sentence."

Soul man

Too bad about that *New York Times* review of **Gary Schmidgall's** *Walt Whitman: A Gay Life*. We were really looking forward to reading this big new bio, which Dutton Books is heavily promoting as the first **Walt Whitman** biography to examine "the connection between the writer's homosexuality and his legacy as a writer." With a big promise like that, you can only imagine our dismay when we read **Rene Tursi's** terse dismissal, which began: "Wielding a blinding libido and a self-hugging autobiographical impulse, Gary Schmidgall has recreated Walt Whitman in his own image," finding "nothing more tantalizing and significant about Whitman than how the poet's homosexuality

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'Quilt' takes Solo bow

by Deborah Peifer

Sean San Jose Blackman (who now wishes to be known as Sean San Jose) will perform *Solo Pieces of the Quilt* on October 18 and 19 at the Bayfront Theatre as part of the continuing Solo Mio Festival. The selections include pieces by **Migdalia Cruz, Danny Hoch, Philip Kan Gotanda, Octavio Solis, and Erin Cressida Wilson**. An actor with a palpable passion for the stage, San Jose chose theatre as a way to cope with the deaths of his parents from AIDS three years ago. The result was *Pieces of the Quilt*, a collection of short monologues written by some of the leading lights of American theatre. *Quilt* has been performed more than 25 times in the 18 months since its premiere, at schools and other venues. Every performance benefits an AIDS organization, and the same is true of the Solo Mio *Quilt* performances, proceeds of which benefit **Proyecto ContraSIDA** and **KAIROS**. Call 392-4400 for tickets to this and all remaining Solo Mio productions.

San Jose has more than Solo Mio on his plate. He is also a founding member of **Campo Santo Theatre Company**, which is presently offering the West Coast premiere of **Migdalia Cruz's Fur** at Intersection for the Arts.



Sean San Jose

Arts. "One of the reasons we started Campo Santo," he explained during a brief phone conversation, "was because we loved Migdalia Cruz's work. She has a great ear for how people talk, and especially how people feel. We kept asking why nobody was doing her stuff, and finally we decided we had to."

"Cruz's work involves a full exposure of the heart," San Jose continues, "and that exposure includes pain, and in *Fur*, especially the pain of unrequited love. The play is funny, sexy, ugly — a lot like love." Campo Santo is now in residence at Intersection, and San Jose sees that as a very positive step for the company. "It's good for us to have a home, and especially in the Mission, because



Curtain Up!



Carmelita Tropicana in *Milk of Amnesia*.

the people we want to see on our stage and in our theatre are right outside our door." Call 626-3311 for tickets. *Fur* runs through October 27 at Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St.

Birds and Brecht

Sometimes we forget that conservatory is the very center of American Conservatory Theatre, but the acting program is an important part of what makes the company great. Graduates of the Advanced Training Program have a chance to strut their stuff in *A Mouthful of Birds* at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom Street, October 9 and 16. Call 749-2228 for tickets. Of course, A.C.T. isn't our only acting school. The Theatre Arts Department of San Francisco State University will present **Tony Kushner's** adaptation of **Bertolt Brecht's** *Good Person of Setzuan*, a dark look at the impossibility of moral capitalism (tell that to the Republicans), October 16 through 26. Call 338-2467 for information. Performances are in the Creative Arts Building, 1600 Holloway Avenue in San Francisco.

Performance art
Carmelita Tropicana, a

Cuba-born performance artist, makes her San Francisco stage debut in *Milk of Amnesia*, a one-woman, multi-character travesty that traverses time as well as space, for three performances only at Theatre Rhinoceros October 16-18. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

Performance art comes to Josie's with *Self-Portrait*, a series of performances on themes of gender identity and sexual preference. The series kicks off with **Star Maris** in *The Last Sunrise*, a multi-media exploration of madness and enlightenment. *Sunrise* runs October 15-19. Following in the series are pieces by **Marilyn Pittman, Emmett Foster, Canyon Sam, and Craig Hickman**. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information.

Antidote for agony

If madness is a little too intense, consider a light-hearted evening of **Gilbert and Sullivan**. *Lamplighters* continues its 45th season with *The Yeomen of the Guard*. You know you'll love those fabulously witty songs. Call 392-4400 for tix.

Finally, with more than 250 theatres in the Bay Area, we might

think we don't need any more companies. Apparently, we would be wrong. **Vector Theatre Company**, which is dedicated to the seasonal production of classical, modern, and experimental plays that "seek to reinvigorate the human potential of the live actor," offers **Tina Howe's** 1979 comedy *Museum* as its first production. A send-up of modern manners, *Museum* runs through November 15 at the 450 Geary Studio; call 421-2882 for tickets. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a performative nature that you would like to pass on to *Curtain Up*, contact dpeifer@delphi.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Miscellany

by Deborah Peifer

Kalliope, a journal of women's art, has announced the fifth annual Sue Saniel Elkind poetry contest. The winner will receive \$1,000 and the poem will be published in the journal. For detailed guidelines — and you need them before you submit anything because "failure to follow these will rules will disqualify entry!" — send a SASE to *Kalliope*, Poetry Contest, FCCJ, 3939 Roosevelt Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32205. Hurry though, because the deadline for submission is November 1, 1997.

I'd like to take a moment to plug the *Lambda Book Report*. In the old dark days, before the explosion of gay and lesbian writing and publishing, it was possible not only to know about all the queer books, it was equally possible to have read them all. Not so anymore. The sheer volume of volumes makes it difficult to keep current. We do what we can at the B.A.R., but we cannot possibly cover everything. If you read for pleasure or information or because it's as vital as breathing, you owe it to yourself to subscribe to *LBR*. Offering a mix of reviews, interviews, critical writing (a ten-part series by Katherine Forrest on how to make a manuscript publishable should be required reading for everyone who wants to write quality fiction), and author queries, along with a dash of gossip, *LBR* is a gift for readers that will help you stay abreast of the wonderful world of queer writing. To subscribe, send \$34.95 to *Lambda Book Report*, 1773 T St., NW Suite 1, Washington DC 20009, or call (202) 462-7924. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a literary nature that you would like to pass on to *Miscellany*, contact dpeifer@delphi.com, or send via snail mail to the B.A.R.

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FILM

Fuller madness

by Erin Blackwell

Fans of mental illness won't want to miss *Shock Corridor* (1963), which starts a one-week run at the Roxie tomorrow. Samuel Fuller's distinctive treatment of insanity U.S. style can be viewed as expressionistic psychodrama, prescient agitprop, or ridiculous trash — depending on your mood swing.

Investigative kamikaze Johnny Barrett (Peter Breck) gets himself locked up in a psycho ward in order to solve an on-site murder

and win himself a Pulitzer Prize. Egged on by his managing editor and coached by an Asian shrink smoking a cigar, Johnny ignores his girlfriend's warning: "Their sickness will rub off on you!" Against her better judgment, Cathy (Constance Towers, star of Fuller's incendiary *The Naked Kiss*) poses as Johnny's sister and turns him into the authorities for "attempted incest."

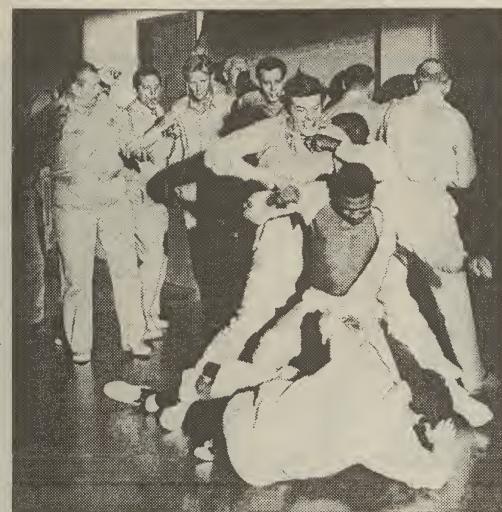
The nuthouse Johnny enters is like *Abbott and Costello Visit Actors Studio* directed by Fritz Lang. Here he suffers the indignities of shock treatment, hydrotherapy, an

attack by a gang of "nymphos," and finally a full-scale breakdown. Fuller's cinematic metaphor for madness as an indoor thunderstorm is much more effective than it sounds. He even intercuts color footage of a waterfall into the black-and-white film! The experimental daring of this device will take your breath away.

During his slide into catatonic schizophrenia, Johnny interviews three witnesses to the murder he's supposed to be solving. All three inmates have Cold War-inspired psychoses. Stewart, raised to be a Southern bigot, defected to Communism while serving in Korea. Boden, a top nuclear physicist, became disgusted by the arms race with the Russians.

The third witness, a young black man named Trent (Hari Rhodes), was a desegregationist guinea pig. The film's most powerful image comes when he pulls a white pillowcase over his head and starts a KKK rant. Again, the idea seems simplistic, but the effect on the viewer is chilling. Never has internalized bigotry been so graphically illustrated.

Meanwhile, on the outside, Cathy is left to earn her living in a



A scene from Sam Fuller's *Shock Corridor*.

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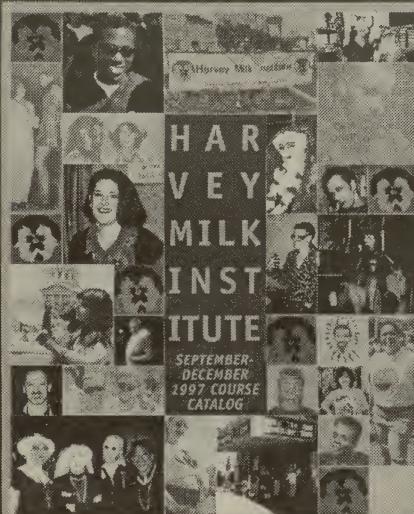
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strip joint — "singing in a sewer with a hot light on my navel," as she puts it. This justifies her wearing nothing but what might be described as a three-piece bathing suit, complete with detachable midriff, for most of the film. As the only woman onscreen, she has to provide all the glamour, tur-

bans and real emotion, and Towers pulls it off like the B-grade Mary Astor that she is. ▼

Shock Corridor runs Friday, October 10-16 at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. Call 863-1087 for information.

story of Saint Sebastian, for their school play. But the sexual resonance of this naked, bound martyr-figure, played by Simon, is disturbing to Biloadeau, who can't confront his homosexuality, his attraction to Simon, or his hatred of the obvious erotic charge between Simon and Vallier, who are indeed having an affair.

Greyson expands on the kitsch-camp potential of the Saint Sebastian figure by casting male actors in the female roles, a conceit (no doubt derived from the play) that makes sense if we are to view the events as the imaginative creation of a group of male prisoners. On the other hand, it's a little disconcerting to see an actor like Brent Carver simply donning a dress and adding a few strands of a wig to his head to become Vallier's mother, the demented Countess de Tilly. Even more extreme, and redolent of the ethereal camp of Firbank, is the character of Lydie-Anne (Alexander Chapman), a black French "woman" who arrives at Roberval to much fanfare in a hot air balloon. The film toys with the audience by refusing to explain or apologize for this unusual drag strategy, in fact, rubbing our noses in gender confusion by having the actors speak in their own voices, not in the queenly, mocking strains we've come to expect from men in dresses. To further confound us, these

"women" are blatantly titless, their chest hairs curling visibly over the tops of their gowns.

In the foreground of these campy proceedings, Simon's gay affair with Vallier comes to the attention of his father, who beats him unmercifully. This sends Simon scampering into the arms of Lydie-Anne, with whom he becomes engaged. But he can't repudiate Vallier, and while Lydie-Anne waits rather pathetically for him, Simon meets Vallier again, seemingly for the last time. In a scene that resonates with sensuality, and shows Greyson's powers as a pictorialist, past and present merge as the two make love in a boat that transforms into a bathtub on the filthy floor of the modern prison. In the final flashback, Biloadeau's evil machinations bring this affair to a tragic end.

Despite its complex structure, shimmering tableaux of lost love, playful gender politics, and intriguing performances, *Lilies* remains strangely frozen, its characters caught like mysterious figures in some ancient frieze. Greyson's clever manipulations are ultimately more intellectual than visceral, and while the film dazzles the eye, it fails to engage the emotions. ▼

Lilies runs October 10-16 at the Castro Theatre.



Jason Cadeux as Simon and Danny Gilmore as Vallier in *Lilies*.

[now] [this]

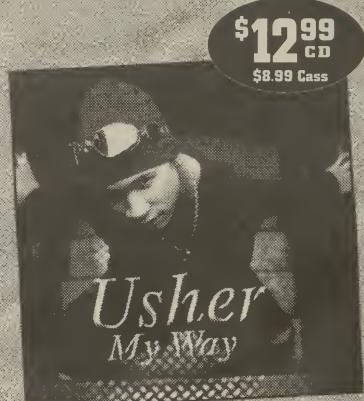
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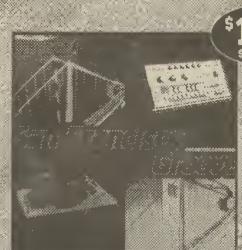
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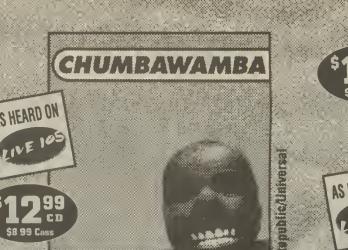
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"Every Inch of Jacek," from the series *Allegory*, by Chris Komater, 1997

Up close and personal

Chris Komater's 'Allegory' at Patricia Sweetow Gallery

by Steven Jenkins

The annals of fine-art photography are overflowing with images of female nudes — women unadorned, adored, and scorned as muses, goddesses, formal abstractions, and sex objects. While accomplished photographers of both genders have focused their lenses on the naked female form since the inception of their medium nearly 160 years ago, in general they have been less apt to explore the male nude as rewarding subject matter. There have been exceptions, of course, such as Pictorialist pioneer F. Holland Day, sensual portraitist George Platt Lynes, and borderline pornographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Still, you weren't too likely to encounter a full-fledged male nude photograph in a museum or gallery until gay culture entered the mainstream and made its

work includes *Personals*, a sound installation in which he played back messages he received in response to an ad he placed describing himself as "young, beefy and hairless." He's also superimposed his likeness in a series of doctored film noir publicity stills, such as "Robert Mitchum seduces Chris Komater with a show of paternal affection." Having been active for years in the Bay Area as an artist and curator, Komater was justifiably annoyed when a local critic mistook him for a female artist on the basis of his *Personals* installation. "Reports of my femininity have been greatly exaggerated," he wrote in response. "Wake up and smell the testosterone."

That musky scent lingers throughout *Allegory*, with its grid of polymorphous pleasures. "I wanted to display my attraction, and to make a beautiful homage to a body type that gets little attention outside the bear movement," Komater writes of his hir-

Komater has always been fascinated with how masculinity is defined by culture. His previous work includes a sound installation, 'Personals,' in which he played back messages responding to a provocative personals ad.

mark on postmodern aesthetics in the 1980s and '90s.

Now we have a plethora of such images, though in this case (as in most), quantity is an inadequate measure of quality. Within the space of two decades, the male nude has been rescued from neglect as a conceptually and stylistically legitimate genre, yet just as quickly it has proven all-too-susceptible to visual clichés. Whether rendered in slick color or poetic black-and-white, these ubiquitous male nudes letting it all hang out begin to look alarmingly alike. Perhaps it's also the predominance of near-nude men in fashion spreads and celebrity shoots that has removed the verve and gusto from this photographic tradition.

Feeling a bit nudged out, I was relieved to come across Chris Komater's recent installation at Patricia Sweetow Gallery. Komater's approach to the male nude is refreshingly unique, emphasizing details of the body rather than the whole enchilada. The central piece in Komater's *Allegory* is "Every Inch of Jacek," a dazzling grid of 80 close-up images, each 7-by-7 inches, that pull apart and reassemble Jacek's body in a self-contained swirl of arms, legs and desires. The artist considers his ambitious work "a portrait of a gay body, with its particular excitements and perils."

Komater has always been fascinated with how masculinity is defined by culture. His previous

sue model, aroused and deconstructed in all his hairy splendor. Gazing at the puzzle pieces of Jacek, viewers can fixate on their favorite erogenous zones: a blurry nipple, a closed eye, stubble on his upper lip, the palm of his hand, the sole of his foot, the erect penis, the smooth testicles, the belly button, the patches and lines of hair on unidentifiable regions of white skin. Komater reveals much here (as does Jacek!) yet somehow avoids objectifying his model. "Nakedness hides more than it reveals," Komater writes, and for once this paradox rings true.

Elsewhere in the installation, Komater links the gay male body to emblems of nature and culture with similar photographs of body parts, foliage, and an old dial telephone. Only two images don't quite work; one is a color photo of blue curtains that contrasts too obviously with the uncovered body on display, and the second is a gratuitous money shot (and I don't mean wads of cash). Otherwise, Komater has reinvigorated the male nude tradition and made me want to verify up close that every inch of the enticing Jacek indeed has been perused by his camera. I might be able to spot a few he missed. ▼

Chris Komater's *Allegory* is up through October 31 at Patricia Sweetow Gallery, 49 Geary Street. Call 788-5207.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Talking pictures

Photographer Robert Giard

by G.L. Mitchell

Robert Giard turned to photography in the mid-'70s. The landscapes and portraits of this initial period, distinguished by a dark, luminous formality, won him numerous one-man and group shows over the next decade. In 1985, Giard began an extensive series of portraits of gay and lesbian writers in the United States. Community is the operative word here, for embedded in the series is the idea that these writers are twice connected — by sexual preference as well as craft. The working title of Giard's project is *Particular Voices: Portraits of Gay and Lesbian Writers*.

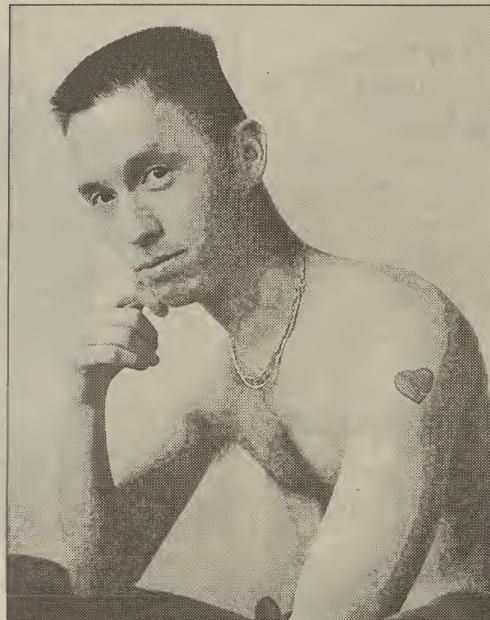
Giard's approach to portraiture follows no single method. Some of the large black and white photographs are of individual writers; others are of groups and collectives. Some, such as the portrait of the poet Olga Broumas, have a classical formality; others show a documentary interest in the writer's ambiance, such as the 1989 photograph of Allan Gurganus surrounded by piles of books and masks. To date, Giard has completed almost 300 portraits in the series. Other subjects have included Alfred Corn, Kate Millett, Eric Bentley, Douglas Crimp, Amber Hollibaugh, James Purdy, Maria Irene Fornes, David Leavitt, and Audre Lorde. Portions of the series have been acquired by the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress. The author talked to Robert Giard about the project at his home in Amagansett, New York.

What led you to launch this project?

In June of 1985, I was in New York City for the Lesbian and Gay Pride March. After the march, the people I was with suggested we go to the Public Theater and get tickets for *The Normal Heart* by Larry Kramer, a play about gay men and AIDS. We saw it that evening. The combination of marching that day and seeing this strong piece of theater stirred something in me and eventually led to my wanting to do something with my photography that was more directly related to my being gay.

All of these experiences — the gay experience, the issue of gay identity, how we align our creative efforts with gay identity — were on my mind. At the same time a friend, the late George Stambolian, was editing the first in a series of anthologies of new gay fiction for the New American Library. In connection with that, he was meeting a number of gay writers, getting to know them, and passing their books along to me. At one point, he suggested that I do some portraits of these people when they came to visit him. I began to photograph some of the writers George was meeting: Robert Ferro, Michael Grunley, Edmund White, Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano, George Whitmore, people like that. I wrote to Larry Kramer and William Hoffman and asked each if I could take his portrait as a gay photographer taking a portrait of a gay writer. That was its inception.

Could you elaborate on the relationship between the gay writer and the gay photographer?



Norman Wong, New York, NY, 1992, photographed by Robert Giard.

The most significant aspect is that in some crucial respect I am on the inside where they are. As far as they are concerned, I am an insider. I have certain experiences in common with them. As different as we may be, there are some common experiences and feelings and perceptions that, as gay people, we share. We are both part of a gay minority that has experienced a certain hostility from mainstream society. There is another important element in my approach to the portrait: I've read their work, so I have an understanding of them as writers. I have some sense of what it might be like to be engaged with literature and the word. These two factors — my interest in literature and the fact that I am gay — enhance the degree to which I can comprehend them. I hope these two factors sensitize me to "take" certain cues from the subject and try in some way to leave room for the subject to participate in being photographed. Too often the portrait situation becomes an opportunity for a photographer to impose his or her style, and while I want to make a statement of my own in a portrait, I don't want it to be merely the occasion to assert my style.

The project has a broad reach. Was it always so inclusive?

In the beginning, because of the specific circumstances, I was photographing only gay men. About a year into the work, I realized that if this was to be more than a set of isolated pictures, the scope of the project would have to be more ambitious. I began to read more writing by lesbians, and to establish contact with writers like Joan Nestle, Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Irena Klepfisz, and Juanita Ramos. I knew that I did not want the series to reflect a bias toward white writers in the Northeast. I wanted all segments of the population to feel represented. Since that time, I've photographed about three hundred writers: men, women, white, African American, Latino/a, Native Amer-

ican, Asian American. I continue to work to achieve this goal.

Furthermore, I didn't want this series to feature only gay celebrities. I hope the archive makes clear that significant writing is being done in a variety of places, not only within the New York City publishing mainstream.

Is it correct to say that a central assumption behind your work relates to visibility, that gay and

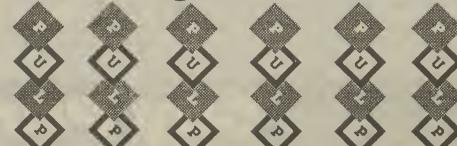
lesbian writers are not sufficiently recognized?

One of the reasons why some gay and lesbian writers write — not the main or sole reason necessarily — is the same as why I am doing this project: to make it concrete and evident that gay and lesbian people are in the world, are diverse, and have significant accomplishments. They are people

to be reckoned with. Through them, the gay and lesbian experience goes into the record and becomes part of history. ▀

Photographs from *Particular Voices* are on display in the Skylight Gallery on the sixth floor of the New Main Library. The book is available at A Different Light Bookstore.

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American Ballet

◀ Arts cover

white pants, adorable grin, and blond curls, he's the sailor boy of everybody's dreams.

Canadian choreographer James Kudelka's first ABT piece, *Cruel World* (1984), is a series of dark pas de deux and ensemble dances set to Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence." In one duet, the woman is manipulated like a Stepford wife. In others, women are abused and abandoned. It isn't an anti-female ballet, though, like the misogynistic work of Gerry Arpino and William Forsythe. The central duet is passionate, hinting at the difficulty of keeping such an intense relationship on full boil.

Julie Kent, whom you may remember as the ingenue in *The Turning Point*, has developed into a lovely dancer with long legs and an aristocratic carriage. Her duets with Robert Hill (tall, dark, so-

plicated) in Kudelka's piece and in Antony Tudor's autumnal *The Leaves are Fading* (music by Dvorak) were the most breathtaking things I saw on both programs. Hill is big enough to heft Kent without strain, and this technical prowess gives them space in which to be expressive

has always distressed me; remember the Haydn symphony piece she choreographed for Joffrey with the movements cut and reordered? Here she takes a score by an obscure French baroque composer, Jean-Féry Rebel, and plays it on tape. I'm sure that Cal Performances,

The canned results of Tharp's taped score are noisy without being the least bit edifying.

and musical until everything but emotion disappears. His tenderness as a partner and her grave beauty give them a mature, serious style that is nearly unheard of in the current world of up-against-the-wall ballet sexuality.

The new piece I didn't like, though it had plenty of advocates, was Twyla Tharp's *The Elements*. Her lack of musicality

which beggars itself trying to provide Mark Morris with live music, heaved a sigh of relief, but the canned results were noisy without being edifying. They also matched the jerky, chaotic choreography, in which lifts were more prominent than in Tharp's other work. And couldn't have expressed less. ▼

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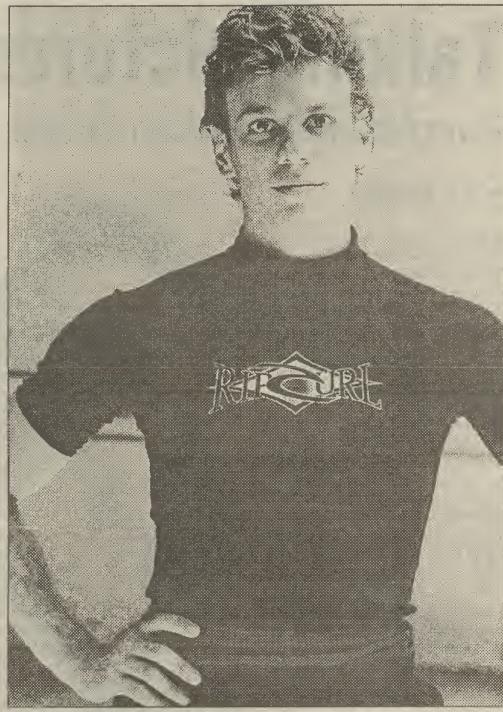
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Keith Roberts

Janet P. Levitt

The season on disc, part II

by Stephanie von Buchau

Continuing our survey of the San Francisco Opera season on disc, the first new production in October yields a CD bonanza; many of these singers were in the audience at Frederica von Stade's recent Berkeley recital, a feast for star-gazers.

Le Nozze di Figaro, Mozart (Oct. 9, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24, 29, Nov. 1). My favorite *Figaro* recording is led by SFO's principal guest conductor, Sir Charles Mackerras; it is passionate but observes correct period procedures (Telarc). SFO's current cast introduces a brilliant young mezzo-soprano as Cherubino. Angelika Kirchschlager's solo debut album features dense, chocolatey songs by Mahler, Frau Mahler (née Alma Schindler), the hottest patootie in *fin de siècle* Vienna, and Ernst Korngold. I heard this beautiful Austrian singer do a fabulous Octavian in Seattle this summer, and her recording is pure bliss (Sony Classical).

Kirchschlager and Sylvia McNair (Susanna) appear briefly together on selections from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, conducted by Claudio Abbado; you'll have to decide if Kenneth Branagh's Shakespearean recitations are a plus or minus (Sony Classical). Figaro Bryn Terfel's last solo disc, *Something Wonderful* (yes, he genderbends that female *King and I* number), is a lip-smacking Rodgers and Hammerstein feast (Deutsche Grammophon).

The sex-mad Count Almaviva is sung by Great Dane Bo Skovhus (in his U.S. opera debut). I love this study baritone's new *Die Schöne Müllerin*; he sings Schubert's lovelorn lad like a serial seducer who's met a girl who wouldn't say yes, and has learned



Bo Skovhus

Dan Burns / EDGAR

some painful truths about himself (Sony Classical) in the process.

Elektra, Strauss (Oct. 18, 23, 26, 31, Nov. 4, 8, 13). You have two choices for a complete *Elektra*: the incomparable Birgit Nilsson, glittering like an emerald surrounded by broken Coke bottles (London), or a solid, well-sung and conducted performance with Eva Marton whooping and wobbling through the title role (EMI Classics). There are two new *Elektra*s on disc, both of them unconscionably cut. Daniel Barenboim (Teldec) applies his penetrating scalpel to the score, but his sopranos are bland and blander Americans — Deborah Polaski (Electrics) and Alessandra Marc (Chrysothemis). Not even Waltraud Meier as Klytemnestra can save this show.

Giuseppe Sinopoli, who most European critics think is a nut (probably because he has a doctorate in psychology), is more dynamic than Barenboim, recognizing that *Elektra* is the psychological opposite of *Der Rosenkavalier*

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OPERA

Earthbound 'Dutchman'

First SFO production of Wagner opera in nine years doesn't soar

by Paul Thomason

Wagner's opera *Der Fliegende Holländer* (*The Flying Dutchman*) is a riveting piece of theater that works on many levels simultaneously. At its simplest, *Dutchman* tells a wonderful yarn about a sailor condemned to sail the world forever, only being allowed on land once every seven years in hopes of finding a woman whose love will break his curse. At a deeper level, the opera is about obsession and synchronicity; about getting the very thing one most wants and the way it changes one's life; about the meeting of the supernatural with everyday reality; about being true to oneself in spite of society's norms; about following love wherever it leads. In short, *The Flying Dutchman* is about many of the things that separate human beings from animals and make life worth living.

But according to the San Francisco Opera's advertising department, *Dutchman* is "Shore leave once every seven years. This is one randy sailor." The end.

Apparently, folks who would be inclined to part with \$140 to spend two and a half hours in the company of a priapic sailor realized they would get more for their money elsewhere, because when SFO gave its first *Dutchman* of the season last week, it was to rows of empty seats. Counting standees and complimentary tickets, the company could only fill 72 percent of the War Memorial Opera House.

Perhaps instead of reducing the opera to the level of smut, the company's advertising should have told the truth — that the world's premier male Wagner singer, James Morris, was singing one of his greatest roles in San Francisco for the first time. But then, that would mean that the management of the SF Opera actually believes in the art form it is supposed to be serving.

Certainly the production, borrowed from Geneva, does not serve Wagner's opera well. Designed by Pierre Strosser and directed here by Steven Taylor, this *Dutchman* is internally inconsistent and has nothing whatsoever to do with boats or the sea or anything else in Wagner's score. Its cheap-looking, monolithic gray walls occasionally move about a bit (on opening night giving glimpses of folks running around backstage), but quickly become tedious.

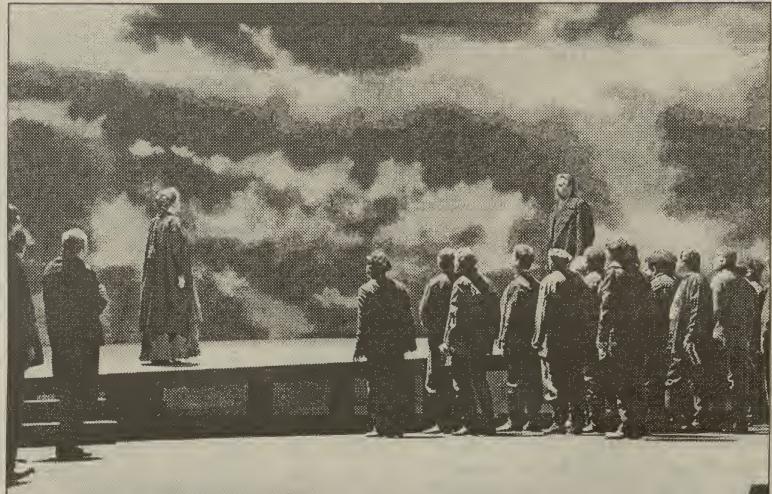
For some reason, Daland's house is empty of all furniture except a large heating stove, a couple of canvas sails on the floor, and two gargantuan ladders in a corner. Though the orchestra plays music that vividly depicts the women's whirling, spinning wheels, and though the women's chorus sings about their spinning, in this production they only make a few hand stitches in the sails as they sit on the floor (Daland is apparently unable to afford any chairs). Okay, so this is a minimalist production, cleansed of anything extraneous — not even a picture of the Dutchman on a wall to help Senta with her obsession. So what do the two ladders in the corner symbolize? Nothing, it turns out. They're there merely to help the stage hands dismantle

the large stove pipe at the end of the scene. So much for artistic integrity.

I sympathized with Senta, who spent most of her big scene with one ear glued to the wall, apparently desperate to hear what was going on next door. At the end of the opera, the poor girl did not even get to jump off the cliff (there was no cliff) into the sea (there was no sea) to prove her love for the Dutchman. Instead, she is squeezed to death by her fiancé, Eric, who then dumps her on the floor. Such *high drama*.

Unfortunately, conductor Michael Boder, who was making his U.S. opera debut, provided the musical equivalent of the production. There was no emotion in the music, no sense of the score's inexorable building to a climax, merely isolated phrases limping by. Wagner's wonderful orchestral colors were never heard, since one heard little but the horns.

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Soprano Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnet and James Morris with members of the chorus in *The Flying Dutchman*.

Larry Merkle



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Eternal flame

by Dan Blue

The Oldest Gay Couple in America: A 70-Year Journey Through Same-Sex America by Gean Harwood; Birch Lane Press, \$22.50

The title sounds like something out of the Guinness Book of Records. Those of us who can't keep a boyfriend ten days won't run to a book about *The Oldest Gay Couple in America*. Nor am I sure that gay men want the word "oldest" slung around their necks, whatever the accomplishment.

Luckily, Gean Harwood doesn't harp on togetherness. In this autobiography he presents simply and frankly the life of a man who in 90 years passed from being a silent film fan to becoming grand marshal at New York's Pride Parade. In the process he spent seven decades with his partner, learned

a lot of inside gossip (he worked for many years at Paramount Pictures), and acquired some special knowledge which he shares with the reader. He's the sweet gay grandfather most of us never had.

Gean met his life partner, Bruhs Mero, just after the stock market crash of 1929. The Great Depression was no time to make a start in life, and no sooner did the couple achieve moderate success, than World War II arrived to slap them down. They came out as gay to avoid the draft, but this permanent public record haunted them the rest of their lives.

The desperately striving Bruhs seems to have been the more ambitious of the two, and he had the harder fall. Hoping to become a professional dancer, he made his debut at the Apollo Theater and enjoyed a decade of success. Then, as a mere child of 32, he suffered a coronary thrombosis that destroyed three-quarters of his

heart. His health was broken and much of his memory gone. He would never dance professionally again.

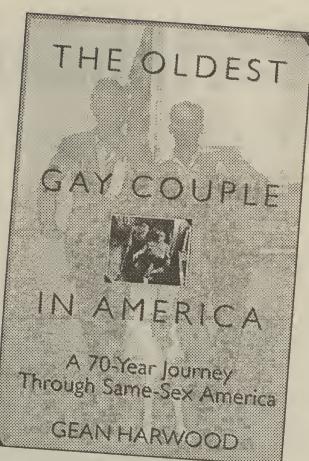
By contrast, Gean was a born survivor. Cheerful and resourceful, he, too, experienced hard times, but he managed to find meaning through music, therapy, philosophy, and, above all, his relationship with Bruhs.

In the early '80s a column on their relationship appeared in the *Village Voice*. They were subsequently featured in two documentaries (*Silent Pioneers* and *For Better, For Worse*), and they appeared twice on *Donahue*. After 70 years in the closet, they bloomed as poster "boys" for gay liberation.

Through better and worse, their love survived. Both strayed from their ideal of monogamy and illness took a heavy toll, but both kept faith. As careers, health, and their very lives slipped away

(Bruhs died in 1995), Gean made the discovery which underpins this book: "My love for Bruhs is the only possession of which I can truly claim ownership, the only thing of any permanence in my life."

Readers may need patience with this book. Gean's prose can seem fussy and dated, and youngsters will sometimes roll their eyes. Nonetheless, he inspires trust. When Gean gives the dope on Cary Grant and Randolph Scott, I believe. And when he says that life slips away but love remains, I recognize that the title *Oldest Gay Couple* means more than a matrimonial merit badge. It becomes the homo-



phobe's nightmare, proof that gay love is a source of dignity, power and raw survival. ▼

DANCE



Elizabeth Garelik

Twist and shout

Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival turns two

by Apollinaire Scherr

Three guys playing like boys with big cars, pressing against a 300-pound hunk of ice to cool their hot bodies; a maiden, mother, and crone dancing in moon-shaped hoops; the pop of a male trio's sexual feeling; creaturely queens burrowing down beneath layers of pretense to their natural trill; bravado displays of lyricism by women in drag; and a fiery street procession led by life-sized puppet goddesses. Commissioned premieres by Keith Hennessy, Terry Sendgraff, Kevin Ware, Mercy Sidbury and Wayne Hazzard (above), Arturo Fernandez, and Wise Fool Puppet Intervention are only a handful of the 30-odd works bending expectations at this year's Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival at the Brady Street Dance Centre.

Spanning three weekends in October, the festival is the love-child of choreographer Anne Bleenthal and Krissy Keefer, Artistic Director of Brady Street Dance Centre, the new hot-spot for woman-identified, multicultural dance.

Jump-started by a small Zellerbach grant, the Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival began last year with a showcase of eclectic work by local lesbian and gay choreographers. At first, there was a lot of head scratching. "People were saying, 'Why do we need another festival?'" choreographer Mercy Sidbury remembers. But by the time the festival had grown from idea to reality, with sold-out performances almost every night, "it was clear there was a need."

This year, the Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival has received enough funding to expand its offerings, adding a weekend of commissioned world premieres by local queer artists, a program of work by emerging artists, a panel discussion on lesbian and gay dance, and master classes with Joe Goode and longtime Contra-band member Kim Epifano. ▼

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The Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival runs October 10-26 at the Brady Street Dance Centre, 60 Brady Street. For information and tickets, call (415) 522-8793.

INTERVIEW

Law and order

Ruthann Robson, author, lawyer, activist, thinker

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The adjective most commonly used to describe Ruthann Robson is smart, usually modified by "very" or "extremely." The author of seven books and numerous stories and articles, Robson's writing persona has a dual edge. Some know her as one of the nation's leading legal theorists, whose texts, among them *Lesbian (Out) Law and Gay Men, Lesbians, and the Law*, are used in law schools in the U.S. and abroad. Others are more familiar with her as one of our leading fiction writers, winner of the Ferro-Grumley Award for Fiction, Lammy finalist and, most recently, nominee for the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction for her last novel, *Another Mother*.

Her new novel, *A/K/A* (a legal term meaning "also known as"), is her most ambitious work to date — serious and compelling literary fiction with the dramatic undercurrent of a powerful thriller. Lest easy comparisons come to mind, Robson is no Scott Turow or John Grisham (too smart, way too much integrity). Nevertheless, her fiction reflects her fascination with the law and with the relationships it creates. Though occasionally Robson's fictional characters are lawyers, like the protagonist in *Another Mother*, more often the author presents characters who have in some way become entangled in the vagaries of the law. The two main characters in *A/K/A* have become enmeshed in just such a way. *A/K/A* deals with this dynamic in the style of a taut psychological thriller in which legal and other identities create dangerous complexities in the lives of the lesbian characters. How these concepts intersect — what is legal, what isn't, what is the law, what isn't — provides the warp and weft of the book, making it uniquely different from most lesbian fiction today.

"*A/K/A* is about identity, but it's not about sexual identity," Robson explains in a recent interview. "The main characters are lesbians and know they are lesbians. But everything else about them is uncertain. One character is a lesbian escort. Some of her clients may be lesbians, others aren't. She is also a law student trying to get out of the escort business by becoming educated. She grew up in foster care. The other character is a soap opera actor. She's played the same character — a lawyer — on the same soap for most of her adult life, so she is very strongly identified with that character. The two women meet, are attracted to each other, and most of the book is about how they are going to get together." But *A/K/A* is more than the standard lesbian love story, it's also a psychological thriller, says Robson. "Will the escort be found out before she finishes law school? Will the soap opera actress' problematic relationship with her lover and their child be resolved?"

Robson writes and thinks about the role of fiction in our writing, reading, and political lives, and about how books get defined. "Serious fiction," she explains, "is two things — the writing evokes something, you enjoy the language; you aren't just reading to get from a to b. It has ideas in it. Most fiction, you get to the



Ruthann Robson: "The law and fiction are tools of social change, but are subject to reactionary forces."

end, you close the book. It doesn't make you think about larger issues, or reflect back on your own life. It doesn't resonate."

Writing serious, lesbian-identified fiction in the '90s is no easy task, as various lesbian novelists have consistently argued. Robson agrees. "Novels are very difficult to write," she admits. "They require huge investments of time. And there is a publishing judgment or pre-judgment that lesbian novels don't sell. It hasn't impacted on me [as much as on some other writers]. You write to be published, but you also write for yourself. That doesn't mean that getting published isn't important, but what needs to happen to survive as a writer is you have to separate being a writer from being an author, just for your own sanity. Keeping the joy in the writing can be difficult."

Who gets published and how concerns Robson, especially now that publishing is leaning increasingly toward celebrity books and away from more literary and theoretical ones. She thinks that many lesbians change their novels just to get published. "I think that it's more important to be writing than to be publishing, in that it is more important to write what you want to be writing. Marketing and publishing say you should be able to explain [every book] in a sentence or under ten words. That seems very reductive," says Robson. "Books that can be accurately explained in ten words aren't what I want to write, aren't what I want to read. If I've read the ten words, why read the book?"

Yet increasingly, those ten-word descriptors are the books that rise to the top of the publishing heap, which makes the struggle to write something complex ever harder. Robson noted that reviews often describe lesbian fiction as dealing with "everyday lesbian life or realistic lesbian life. That's what I feel like I'm doing, and that's what I want to be doing, even though it may not be everyday to be an attorney or a lesbian escort. You read a lot of novels in which people don't have jobs, where the worst thing that has happened to them is that they've broken up with their girlfriend. That may be everyday life

involved in the political life around them — how they are engaged or not engaged, how characters are trying to lead ethically political lives in spite of their material and political circumstances, how hard it is to get a job that both pays you something and is also not demeaning — or in the case of [the characters in] *A/K/A*, where you have to pretend to be someone else."

Her characters don't ever leap out and give a discourse on ethics, however, says Robson. "That is never articulated in the books —

no one is saying, 'Oh, I'm trying to lead an ethical life.' The reader has to get that." Yet work and ethics are tremendously important in the lives of Robson's characters. "In mysteries, work is background — people are police officers but rarely question what that means," she notes. Whereas in Robson's novels, "people do question their work and the meaning of it."

Robson's work in both legal theory and her fiction reflect similar goals and ideas. "One of the

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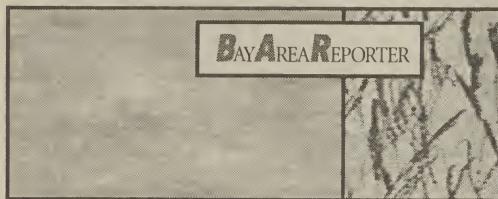
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Familiar yet fresh

by Deborah Peifer

Dream Lover by Lyn Denison;
Naiad, \$11.95

It seemed for a long time that the only fiction lesbians wrote were coming-out novels, mysteries, and mysterious coming-outs. The coming-out novel disappeared for a while, which was a good thing, I think, because they were all getting a little old. A wonderful collection of black lesbian coming-out stories, *does your mama know?* (edited by Lisa C. Moore, Redbone Press, \$19.95), published earlier this year, suggested that it was time for a new generation to explore the one experience that connects all lesbians. Apparently Naiad Press thinks so, too, because *Dream Lover* is a coming-out novel with every possible trope of the genre, and yet there is a freshness about this work that makes it worth recommending.



Jo is a straight woman to the core, in the process of recovering from a disastrous marriage when she meets the sometimes surly, but always intriguing, Alex. Certain of her own heterosexuality, Jo is able to "tolerate" Alex's difference, especially in the light of her landlady's blatant hostility to her.

all things queer. Of course, Jo and Alex are going to get it on, have a few problems, and fall happily-ever-after in love, but even though I knew from page one that things were going to work out just fine, I found myself enjoying the characters and their predicaments.

Lyn Denison uses humor to good effect to create characters that live fully on the page, and that makes the novel interesting. After all, aren't our real stories pretty much limited to one or two plots, with variations? Denison's plot is not boring, and the predictability is somehow sweet. It reminded me of a time when a friend asked if she should sleep with her boyfriend. It was the oldest question in the world, but it was new to her. In the same way, Denison creates a situation that is painfully familiar to her readers, but that is entirely new to her characters. The result is a lovely little story, one that may reconnect you to your own coming-out adventures. ▼

Opera on disc

◀ page 42

— a waltz opera in which three-quarter time signals dementia, not nostalgia. But his sopranos are overcloud Americans, too; Marc moves up to Elektra and Deborah Voigt sings Chrysanthemis. Hanna Schwarz, who sings Klytemnestra for SFO, is Sinopoli's interesting, ready grand dame (Deutsche Grammophon).

William Tell, Rossini (Nov. 2, 7, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24). The most exciting *Tell* recording isn't in French, alas, since it comes from La Scala. Still, SFO's Chris Merritt and conductor Riccardo Muti are top-drawer, and the sunrise finale will blow both your mind and your speakers (Philips). Merritt

also stars in the latest and best recording of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*, as the charismatic used-car salesman who makes the inarticulate word of God sound like a fabulous deal. Pierre Boulez and the Concertgebouw turn this "difficult" score into musical heaven (Deutsche Grammophon).

Pelléas et Mélisande, Debussy (Nov. 9, 11, 14, 20, 23, 29, Dec. 3). Forget what you've heard about "authentic" French style. The most thrilling *Pelléas* recording is conducted by Herbert von Karajan with the Berlin Philharmonic. Richard Stilwell and our own Frederica von Stade are the lovers; José Van Dam is a heartbreaking Golaud (EMI Classics).

If you don't want to pay full price but want French style, there's a new *Pelléas* on a budget label for under \$20, though it has a major drawback for first-timers: no English libretto. Still, this live performance from Lille, France is led with idiomatic mistiness by Jean-Claude Casadesus. Lovers

Mireille Delunsch and Gerard Thérèl are eloquently Gallic (Naxos).

Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky (Nov. 19, 22, 25, 28, 29, Dec. 2, 5, 7). Tchaikovsky wrote this tender opera for conservatory students, which is why my favorite recording stars the youthful Nuccia Focile (Tatyana), Neil Shicoff (Lensky), and Dmitri Hvorostovsky (Onegin). Semion Bychkov conducts (Philips). As luck would have it, just in time for the new SFO production of *Onegin*, Russian soprano Elena Prokina (Tatyana) appears on the first complete stereo recording of Rimsky-Korsakov's spiritual masterpiece, *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitzezh*, recorded live at the 1995 Bregenz Festival (Koch Schwann). This is one of the most ravishing pieces of operatic music ever written — a sort of Russian *Parsifal* — and I recommend it to anyone who has a cynical, "been there, done that" attitude toward unknown operas. It could change your life! ▼

Dutchman

◀ page 43

The evening's most consistently satisfying performance came from the men's chorus, which sang vigorously, securely, and on pitch.

In the title role, bass-baritone James Morris came to grief in his first aria, often singing off pitch and with a distressing wobble. The audience, however, greeted the aria with the same gleeful applause with which it had greeted a mishap when the curtain was raised a few minutes earlier. Fortunately, Morris then settled down and once again proved he has no equal in the Wagner repertoire. He did some ravishing soft singing in the second scene, absolutely on pitch and with a voice filled with emotion. His stentorian singing at the end of the opera was the one thrilling moment of the entire evening. He alone seemed to realize that phrasing is an integral part of a singer's art.

Jeanne-Michele Charbonnet worked very hard in the role of Senta — too hard. She sang coarsely and unmusically, substituting a series of isolated, bludgeoned notes for Wagner's musical line. To my ears, her somewhat unfocused, shrill voice is not innately attractive. Franz Hawlatka (Daland) does have a beautiful voice, resonant and with true low notes. Once he stopped shouting, it was a pleasure to hear him. As Eric, Gösta Winbergh pushed his initially attractive voice relentlessly, ultimately becoming tiresome. Raymond Very was a sweet-voiced Steersman, and Josephine Gayer was good as Mary.

Maybe in another decade the SF Opera can try *Dutchman* again — and perhaps it might even try putting on the opera Wagner wrote? What a novel idea! ▼

The Flying Dutchman continues through October 25. For tickets and more information call (415) 864-3330.



MUSIC

Color me Dusty

by Jeffery Kennedy

Dusty Springfield—*The Dusty Springfield Anthology* (Mercury Records)

When asked about her '60s image — thick eyeliner, bouffant hairdos, fluttering hand gestures — English singer Dusty Springfield cites drag queens and French *Vogue* magazine models as her influences. Her theatricality, along with her well-publicized transformation from bespectacled red-haired convent schoolgirl to blond glamourpuss, endeared her to gay men. The general public loved her lack of pretension, and her voice thrilled almost everyone. Dusty could sing anything from show tunes to pop to R&B convincingly. She had a long string of hits in England, and a shorter but no less vibrant one in the U.S.

All of her hits are here on this Mercury anthology, and then some. Packaged in a gatefold digipak and slipcase, this three-CD compilation samples Dusty's entire 35-year career, from her early '60s recordings with the folk trio The Springfields to her 1995 album *A Very Fine Love*. Each expertly remastered disc is over 75 minutes long, and the accompanying color booklet includes many photos, track annotations, and lengthy, informative notes.

Listeners will immediately recognize her debut solo single,

1963's "I Only Wanna Be With You," as well as her other big American hits, such as 1964's "Wishin' and Hopin'" and "All Cried Out." The inclusion of many fine obscure tunes, including 1973's "Mama's Little Girl" and 1982's "Soft Core," help make this the best overview of Dusty's oeuvre available.

In a recent BBC documentary about Dusty, composer Burt Bacharach repeatedly refers to Dusty's perfectionism. Dusty grew up studying classical music and American pop, and she wanted to make records that resonated both physically and emotionally. She left the very successful Springfields after walking down Broadway in New York at 3 a.m. and hearing The Exciters' 1962 hit "Tell Him" blasting out of an all-night record store. Dusty would never settle for anything less than, as she described it, the "in your face" immediacy of that disc. Getting "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me," her melodramatic 1966 international smash, to meet her standards took 47 takes.

This relentless perfectionism gave Dusty a "difficult" reputation, but the stellar quality of her recordings testifies to her brilliance. She worked with ace arrangers such as Johnny Franz, who understood her intentions, and first-class songwriters, such as Bacharach and Carole King, who were knocked out by her interpretive skills.

Dusty found inspiration in all types of music, including Phil Spector, Puccini, and Motown. Whether she's rambunctiously calling teenagers to the dance floor in the 1965 beat stomper "Live It Up," mourning her lost youth in her 1972 cover of Charles Aznavour's "Yesterday When I Was Young," or attempting to seduce a former lover in 1969's steamy "Breakfast in Bed," Dusty is eminently believable. Her ability to erase the gap between listener and vocalist never wavers. Even her recordings from the '80s, which sound more dated today than any of her efforts from the '60s and '70s, waft intimacy like an alluring perfume.



Dusty Springfield

None of her pop compatriots — Sandie Shaw, Cilla Black, Petula Clark, Lulu — came close to Dusty artistically, and her legacy remains peerless. Today, she wears her hair in a silver shag, but the gestures and the eye makeup are still there, as is the voice, a bit rough around the edges but as affecting as ever. Dusty finally

seems to be getting recognition in the U.S., thanks to the *Pulp Fiction* soundtrack revival of her 1968 hit "Son of a Preacher Man" and praise from female singer-songwriters such as Joan Osborne. This compilation should convince Americans that Dusty Springfield is one of the world's great singers. ▼

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Ruthann Robson

◀ page 45

things I am trying to say is don't look to the law for easy answers. You can't look to the law to change things for you. Like if same-sex couples marry, that will not alter the law for lesbians and gay men in general," she maintains. "Basically the reformists are dominant right now, seeking to change the law in specific but narrow ways to benefit a narrow and specific group, which certainly won't include everyone. Not the transgendered or even the bisexual. So I think it's a narrow vision of social change not only in how it's accomplished, but in its ultimate goal."

Robson adds, "There are ways in which people simplify the law or confuse it with other things, like social change. The law and fiction are tools of social change — or could be — but aren't of themselves social change and are subject to very reactionary forces as well."

And, Robson notes, the law is not benign, as the characters in A/K/A discover as they try to survive a series of devastating events in which the law plays a major role. Robson's advice for lesbians and gay men can be gleaned from those characters. When it comes to the law, she concludes, "we have to be wary." ▼

Victoria A. Brownworth is a columnist for *Curve* and *POZ* magazines and writes for numerous queer and mainstream publications. Her book *Too Queer: Essays from a Radical Life* was a finalist for two Lambda Literary Awards. *Film Fatales: Independent Women Directors*, which she co-authored with Judith Redding, will be published in November.

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Leslie Griffith, by Jason Mecier

Newsflash

Good evening, I'm Terilyn Joe..."
"And I'm Wendy Tokuda..."
"And this is the 6 O'Clock News!"

"A new art exhibit by two San Francisco artists is all about Bay Area women newscasters!"

"Center for the Arts in Yerba Buena Gardens is the setting for the art exhibit *Ladies of the News*. Artists Jim Winters and Jason Mecier say they think of their subjects as both TV stars and Everywoman, USA!"

"Mecier makes his portraits from beans, yarn and noodles. Belva Davis in pastel. I guess that's what they call modern art!"

"Mecier also makes artful mosaics from pasta, corn, peach pits and puff-balls. I'm Laura Marquez, and I'm framed in French Fries and Chicken McNuggets!"

"Winters has captured Suzanne Shaw, Emerald Yeh and Kristine Chow, among other worthies, in his distinct portrait style. This is Michelle Henagan, Metro Traffic Control!"

"Annalisa Frasca, standing by as a fire rages! Winters used silk-screen ink and latex to capture my image right off the TV screen!"

"Wendy, you look fabulous in yarn, felt and puff-ball!"

"Thanks, Terilyn! And I'm sure my colleagues Susan Blake, Tori Campbell and Ann Fraser look fabulous, too! More after this!" ▼

Ladies of the News remains on view through November 30 at Center for the Arts Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission St. \$5. For information, call 978-ARTS.



Malou Nubla, by Jim Winters



Frank Pietronigro's "Self-Portrait," part of the Gay and Lesbian Artists Alliance's Open Studio exhibition Body/Land at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. See Saturday.

Fri 10

Caribou Tribute

Fringe Fest hit, tribute to Ray "Cappy" Morris featuring the Whistleries. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 10/25, \$12. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Cats

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical that won't die. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$37-67. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

Digital Dreams

Return engagement of comic queeries into the future, written and performed by Margery Kreitman, Karen Hirst. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm, sun. at 7:30pm thru 10/19. \$12. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

En Drag

Seven of SF's finest female impersonators, hosted by Alex Michaels. \$7. 9/10 & 11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Fever Dreams

Group show of SF artists, incl. Jeffrey Bernstein, Marque Cornblatt, more. Thurs-Sun. thru 10/12. Belcher Studios Gallery, 69 Belcher. 255-8900.

High Society

ACT's production of Arthur Kopit's adaptation of Cole Porter musical. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Just Wild About Harry
Grand Central Theatre presents Henry Miller's only

play, with Ian Hirsch in title role. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 10/25. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 835-4728.

Lesbian & Gay Dance Festival

Second Annual Les & Gay Dance Fest, a 3-week event (call for schedule). Fri. & Sat. at 7:30pm; Kathy Carbone, High Risk Group, Enrico Labayen, more. \$15. Brady Street Dance Centre, 60 Brady. 522-8793.

The Muse

New play with original music by Drew Khalouf. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Thurs. & Sun. at 7pm thru 10/11. Call for prices. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Neurotica

Corey Schaffer performs musical journey toward artistic and sexual ambitions. Thurs-Sat. at 8pm thru 11/1. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

PCRN

Men of All Colors Together's Pacific Coast Regional Network registration & welcome. 8pm-midnite. Cyberworld Cafe, 528 Folsom. 675-0201.

Resurgence

Erotic art by Vince Gabrielli, Leon, Harry Tanner, more. Fri. & Sat. thru 10/26. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 551-7940.

Search and Destroy:

Punk Photography 1976-79 exhibition, thru 10/11. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Sketch and Sniff

Sketch comedy, improv, and musical moments by Amy Boyd and Karla Carmony, and Mique Li. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm

thru 10/12. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Susie Bright

"An extraordinary evening with Susie Bright," part of Solo Mio Fest. \$16.50. 8pm. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

Sat 11

Body/Land

Gay and Lesbian Artists Alliance shows new work by Frank Coach McGrady, Rubin Joy, Robb Schaller, more, part of Open Studios. Sat. & Sun., 11am-6pm. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. 824-9344.

Family Halloween

Shanti's Family Halloween Party: costume-making, pumpkin-carving, more, for families with HIV. 3pm. Call for info: 487-4743.

Folsom Compound

Artists P. Boss, Tron Bykle, Courtney Peaters, Kenneth Leaf, Max L. White exhibit, part of Open Studios. Sat. & Sun., 11am-6pm. 893 Folsom.

Open Studios

Over 190 artists' studios open in Potrero Hill, SoMa, Civic Ctr., Bayview, Ft. Mason, free. Sat. & Sun., 11am-6pm. Directory exhibit at Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan. 675-9777.

Route 80:

"Cars, Cows and Caffeine," Erin-Kate Whitcomb's multi-character emotional road trip. Wed.-Sat. thru 10/11, call for times. Tonight at 8pm.

Q-Spirit

Lecture series on homosexuality in spiritual traditions (Tonight: Christianity), Mon-

\$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Safer Hot Sex

Discussion by Senior Unlimted Nudes, endorsed by SF Jacks, free. 2pm. Rainbow flag, clothing-optional Baker Beach. 267-6999.

SexArt 5

East/West radical sex photo slam, a group exhibition. Sat. & Sun., 1-6pm, thru 10/12. \$2. Mark I. Chester studio, 1229 Folsom. 292-3223.

The Unreality of Being

Henry Darger's outsider art, thru 11/30. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Urban Woodland

SF Arts Commission Gallery presents Tony Bellavita's site-specific installation at Exploration City Site. Thru 11/13. 155 Grove. 554-6080.

Viva Hollywood

Lucy Ricardo, Tinsel Town's glamour queens & hunks at Latino dance club, Futura, 174 King. 665-6715.

Sun 12

Breast Freedom & Nude Parade

6th annual parade along Telegraph Ave. nude or top-free. Starts noon, People's Park, Telegraph at Haste, Berkeley. (510) 848-6221.

PFLAG

Support group, 2pm. Video, "Claiming America's Promise," 3pm, free. St. Francis, 152 Church. 921-8850.

SAGA North

Gay & Lesbian Ski Club winter season kickoff mtg. 6:30pm. Rm. 260, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 995-2772.

Todd Friedman, Wes Grey Wolf

Photographer and collage artist exhibit collaborative works featuring tattoos, piercings, fetish scenes. Thru 11/8. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 626-0305.

Fahrenheit 451

Exhibition of book-related objects and installations, thru 10/20. Art Commission Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Hungarian Photography

1920s and 1930s, Part II: exhibit includes works by Ferenc Csik, Imre Kinszki, more. Thru 11/1. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitation," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Outlaws and Lobbyists

Outsider films and videos by Kenneth Anger, Tom Robbins, more. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/30. Noon-5pm. Free with admission (\$5). Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Over, Under and Around

Paintings expressing depth, motion, the passing of time. Thru 11/1. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Particular Voices:

"Portraits of Gay and Lesbian Writers," photographs by Robert Giard. Thru 10/26. Skylight Gallery, Main Library, Civic Center. 557-4595.

Pavarotti Monument

Sculptor Richard McDonald's sketches for monument of Luciano Pavarotti, with Sleep State/Dream State series, thru 10/26. 445 A Summer. 291-8337.

Spirit Snaps

Drawings and paintings by A.K. Burditt, thru 11/2. Java Supreme, 703 Guerrero. 673-3080.

Still Rooms and Excavations

Photographic installation by SF artist Richard Barnes: archeological excavation beneath Palace of Legion of



Gildardo Enrique's "Elliot," part of *Nature vs. Nurture: A Reflection of Growing Up Queer*, opening Wednesday night at the Student Center Art Gallery at San Francisco State University. See listing.

Honor. Free. Thru 11/22. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Wed

About Face

25 artists explore the human face, incl. Robert Arneson, Rebecca Bollinger, Imogen Cunningham, more. Thru 11/24. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery. 983-4000.

Bay Area Award Show
Collaborative sculptors Castaneda/Reiman, video/installation team Halfifers, and painter Alicia McCarthy: award-winners' group show, thru 11/15. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Festival of Harps
Harps perform Celtic, African, Peruvian, medieval, and world fusion music. Bene-

fits Bay Area Friends of Tibet. \$20 advance, \$25 door. 7pm Himalayan bells; 8pm concert. Grace Cathedral, California and Taylor. (510) 548-5879.

Great Moments...
"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Mem'l Opera House, thru 9/7, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

The Last Sunrise
Star Maris in multimedia performance: male-to-female gender transformation. Wed-Sun, at 8pm thru 10/19. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Masters of Light:
"Dutch Painters from Utrecht in the Golden Age" 17th-century art exhibit. Thru 11/30. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. 863-3330.

Mexican Photography
Exhibition: five decades of works by Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Antonio Reynoso, and

more. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/8. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0445.

Nature vs. Nurture
"A Reflection of Growing Up Queer" art exhibition, includes works by Jerome Caja, Gildardo Enrique, Scooter, Elliott Linwood, Patricia L. Maney, more. Reception tonight, 5pm. Thru 11/7. Student Ctr. Art Gallery, SFSU, 1650 Holloway. 338-2580.

SF Games
Weekly board and card game group, free. 7:30pm. Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3678.

Allegory
Chris Komatar's installation includes 80 close-up images of a gay male nude. With Leonie Guyer's oil-on-velvet paintings. Thru 10/31. Patri-

cia Sweetow Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-5126.

Ascending Chaos
New work by Masami Teraoka, thru 11/1. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Crimes Against Nature
Revival of 1977 play: stories of gay survival. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 10/25; call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Hormone Hotel
Cruisy nightclub for girls, boys and others. DJs Robeena Diet Biscuit, Deena Davenport, Alvin A Go Go. \$3 cover includes draft beer. 21+ up. 10pm-2am. Powerhouse, 1347 Folsom.

Mario Romero
New works on canvas by Mexico City artist, thru 10/20. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Milk of Amnesia
Cuban-born NYC performance artist Carmelita Tropicana in her SF debut. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 10/18. \$15. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Seemen
"Violent Machines Perform Acts of Love," an interactive robotic spectacle. Thurs.-Sat. at 10pm thru 10/25. \$7-10. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Something For the Boys
42nd Street Moon's concert version of Cole Porter's 1943 musical. Thurs.-Sun. thru 10/19, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$18.50. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Thur

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"Buried, Angled with Back Hoe," part of Richard Barnes' photographic installation Still Rooms and Excavations at SF Camerawork. See Tuesday.

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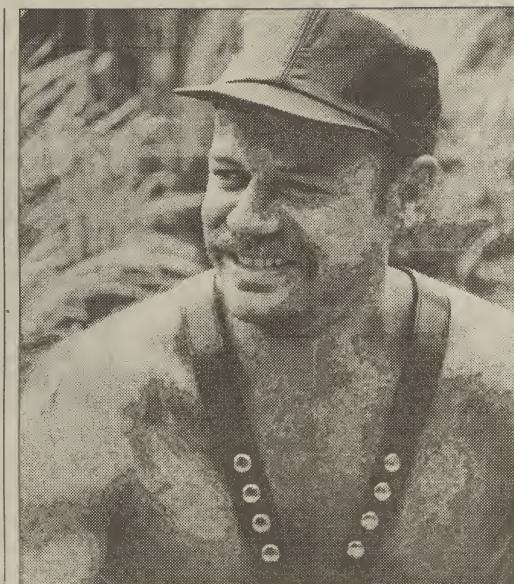
Volunteerism definitely paid off for SMMILE both before, during and after the Folsom Street Fair. Chuck Roth, SMMILE's treasurer, announced last week that the gross take for Sunday, Sept. 28, was a record \$239,000!

There were huge increases in many areas of activity at the fair. Monies collected at the various gates soared from \$43,000 last year to \$73,000 this year. Vendors sold \$81,000 in beers and cocktails; T-shirts and programs reaped \$5,000. SMMILE went through a whopping 313 kegs of beer, and by 1300, the 200 cases of bottled water were sold out!

And what do all these statistics mean? They mean that on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the SF-Eagle, some \$150,000 will be distributed to this year's beneficiaries: AIDS Emergency Fund, Project Open Hand, Healing Alternatives, ACT UP/Golden Gate, Positive Resources and the Immune Enhancement Project. You may recall that last year's beneficiaries got an impressive \$95,000 divided among them; this year's \$100,000 goal has been exceeded by \$50,000!

SMMILE's good fortune was due not only to volunteers but also to the weather, which was a big factor in the 400,000 turnout — all hell-bent on having a good time. Fairgoers perused the merchandise, food, booze and propaganda booths, which totaled a stupendous 220 and generated some \$50,000 in fees.

Of course, the many volunteers who helped out this year are to be congratulated and thanked for their heroic and backbreaking efforts. They are, of course, too numerous to list here; nevertheless, men and women, drag queens, gays and



Eric Shawcroft of San Jose is Mr. Triple R Leather and will compete for the IML title in Chicago next May.

straights put their best foot forward, with the results being the amazing totals mentioned above. Without dedicated volunteers, a lot of things simply wouldn't get done in this community!

I hope you'll all be at the Eagle on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26, to see the checks presented to all the beneficiaries. It will, once again, be one of the leather community's finest hours! Congrats also to the SMMILE board of directors for their efforts. What a great day for board member David "Puddles" Dysart. This year's Folsom Street Fair was dedicated to him! It couldn't have happened to a nicer dude!



And now what?

The community's major leather title contests are now history. We have a new IML, Kevin Cwayna; a new IMsL, Genelle Moore; and a new IMD, Jeffrey Adler. Earlier this year, the American Leatherman (Jim Raymond), American Leatherwoman (Leslie Anderson) and American Leatherboy (Max Steiner) were chosen at the American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, D.C. International Mr. and Ms. Deaf Leather have been chosen; International Mr. Fantasy has been selected; and so has Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather by the Centaurs MC in Washington, D.C.

In the U.S. and European communities, leatherpeople are competing for titles that will take them to Mid-Atlantic Leather in January, ABW in April, IML in May and IMsL in July. The regional Drummer contests have not yet begun, but the first one, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer in Dallas, will undoubtedly take place in early May 1998.

Mr. Leather Switzerland has already been chosen and will compete for the Mr. Europe Leather title soon, and by next May, the 20th anniversary of International Mr. Leather should be one of Chicago's biggest celebrations ever. Some 400 rooms at the Congress Hotel have already been booked, so if you are planning to attend, I suggest you make your reservations now! Don't get left out! Last week, the first of many organizational meetings took place at IML headquarters in Chicago. Judges' names were being bandied about; entertainers and special surprises for next year's big production were discussed. This is one you shouldn't miss!

Here on the home front, it was pretty subdued most of last week. There were a handful of people who scheduled their vacations to include both the Folsom and the Castro Street fairs. Last Thursday night, the city's hottest boozey, Stompers on 10th, threw a boot party at the SF-Eagle to celebrate their first year of business. Every-



Judge Mike Wieland of San Francisco (left) congratulates Alain Jeaneret of Zurich, the first-ever Mr. Leather Switzerland, at the contest on Sept. 2 in Lausanne.

LEATHER SCENE

one agreed that it was a well-deserved anniversary that couldn't have happened to two nice guys, Mike and Frank. Stompers already enjoys universal recognition. I was lounging around there one day last week, and within two hours, leather men and women from seven different states and four foreign countries had visited the store — and most made purchases. Don't you love the sweet smell of success?

And speaking of success, our own Mr. Northern California Drummer, John Brown, did all right for himself in the International Mr. Drummer finals — clinching the first runner-up spot is quite a coup! Lest you were confused by my column last week about John's fantasy, please know that his fantasy wasn't a "disaster" at all. When John attempted to spank, whip and beat his two boys, the attempt failed because the props fell apart, but it was meant to be that way! It was a display of frustration taken to the nth degree when the St. Andrews Cross collapsed and the brick wall with a boy chained to it crumbled to bits! Hilarious! The audience loved it and gave John a standing ovation! We love our John Brown!

Women who want to compete for the Ms. Golden Gate Leather title — now held by that cute Beth Downey — should start preparing for the big event, which takes place at the SF-Eagle on Saturday, Oct. 25. Ms. Downey — very visible, very productive and very accessible — has had a great year with the title. She will be a hard act to follow.

Actually, the Ms. Golden Gate Leather extravaganza will be a three-day event, starting with a Meet & Greet, basket auction (for the winners' travel fund) and beer/soda (\$8) bust on Friday, Oct. 24, at 2000. On Saturday, the contest is at the Eagle at 2000 with an \$8 beer bust and 50/50 drawing. On Sunday, the victory party/beer bust will be at Daddy's, \$8, 1530-1830. SF Dyke Daddy Thumper and Beth are putting this together. For more info and/or an application, e-mail: Sfdthump@aol.com or MsGGLthr96@aol.com. ▼



International Master '97 Roger Curtman (standing) poses with International Slave Bill, both from Atlanta.



The fast-rising Bearatones/SF entertained appreciative crowds at the Folsom Street Fair.

E V E N T U R E S I N L E A T H E R

Thursday, Oct. 9

Free and anonymous STD checkups upstairs at 933 Harrison Street. Not to be confused with HIV testing.

Weekend, Oct. 9-13

Busy, busy! Living in Leather XII takes place in Portland, Ore. — all weekend at Portland Conference Center.

Eighth Annual Mr. Upstate NY Leather by the Utica Tri's MC with a \$55 weekend package deal. Most of the official action is at That Place Bar; the unofficial action is at Motel 6, 150 N. Genesee Street in Utica. Call (800) 397-1698 or e-mail to: Mrunyl@aol.com.

Golden Gate Guards MC's "Monopoly" weekend run — last of the season at beautiful Camp Mendocino. Fee at this late date is \$135, and no registration at the gate!

The fourth annual queer biker invasion to Zabriskie Point in Death Valley for gathering at high noon on Saturday, Oct. 11. Call 563-6100 or e-mail to: mcpsycle@well.com.

In Montreal? Check out the Bad Boy Club of Montreal's Black & Blue weekend with the main event on Sunday, Oct. 12. Call 514/875-7026 or e-mail: information@bcm.org. Friday night is Tom's Leather Ball; Saturday is the Military Ball.

Saturday, Oct. 11

SF Leathernecks' October party benefits Stop AIDS Project. Doors open from 2100 to 2230; by invite only, \$12. Send SASE to P.O. Box 14152, SF, CA 94114-0152. Sorry, but there's no phone number given.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Defenders MC beer bust at Daddy's, 2100-2400, \$7, plus a body-painting contest. Sounds like a colorful event. And by the way, former Mr. Leather of San Diego, Ed Morgan, assumes managerial duties at Daddy's tonight. You might want to paint his body in 49er colors, especially his testicles!

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules. Mandatory clothes check and all that goes with it.

Friday, Oct. 17

SF Exiles host the third annual "Women in Uniform" party at the Women's Building, with doors open from 1930 to 2000. \$3 members/\$5 others. Dress up in your fantasy or fetish attire. Prizes! Call 487-5170.

Lou Duff's "Dark Angels Guide to Cruising and Trickling With Women." Call 550-0122 for time, price and location.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Lady Hilary, who's been touted as responsible for the leather revival among women in Sacramento, scores with the Ms. Sacramento Valley Leather contest at Joseph's (upstairs) in the capital at 2100, with a \$5 donation benefit the Lambda Community Center. Emceed by Donna Shroud and Daddy Irwin Kane. For info call Pam Vining at (916) 457-5907.

"When Planets Collide" is the theme of the High Brow Society's annual drag event (formerly the Muscle Sisters party) at Eureka Valley Recreation Center. It's a benefit for AIDS Benefits Counselors, Bay Positives and Eureka Valley Recreation Center. No prices given in their press release. Call 281-0842 for more information.

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30th

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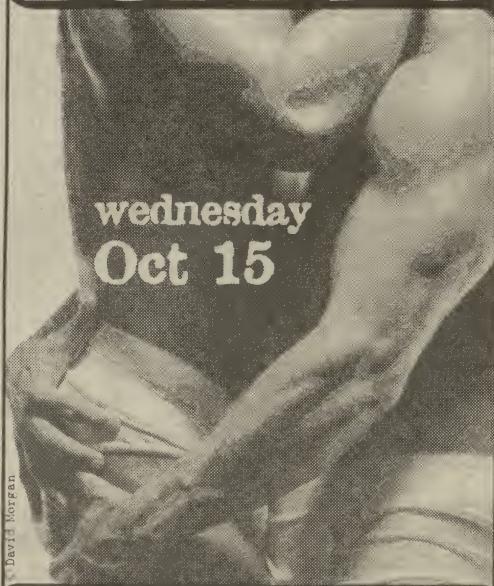
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The 2nd and 4th Monday of each month
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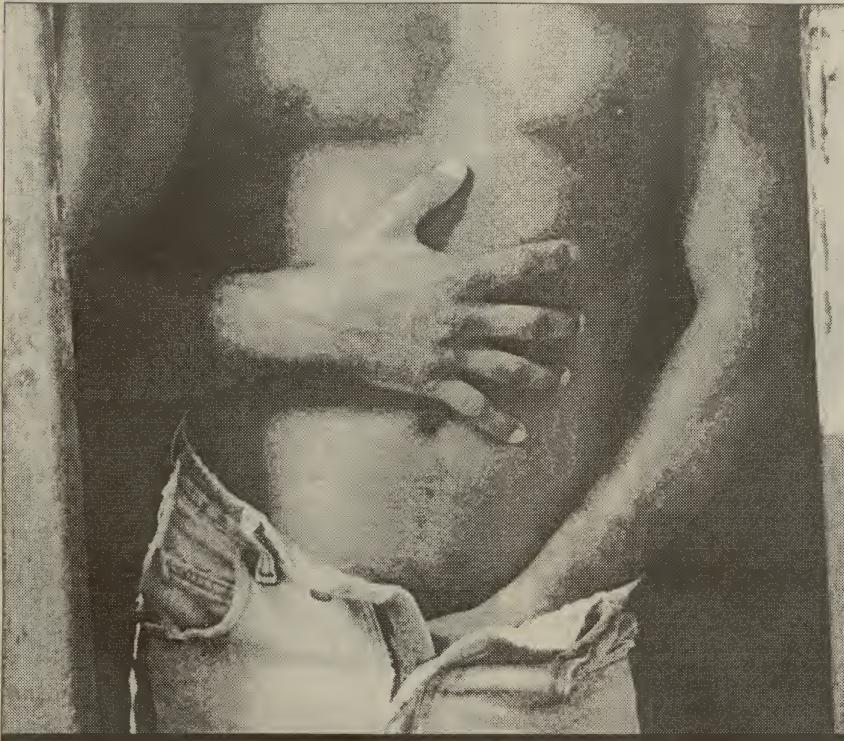
UNDERWEAR BUDDIES

wednesday
Oct 15



every 3rd wednesday
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Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Bay Bridge Sat 9/13 5:30 PM
You: handsome bear in blue blazer. Me: blond in Wrangler. Enjoyed exchanging 9 miles. Let's meet and get to know each other—Dinner? ☎ 8101.

Blond Fri 9/12 Zapata Taqueria
We said hi and exchanged glances at 9PM on Friday. Me: Latino, in-shape, white shirt. You seemed occupied, why? Please call. ☎ 8102.

Watersports at Sling 8/13
You: jeans, hairy chest, glasses, trim build. Me: jeans, knees tank top, trim build, on my knees draining every drop. More please! ☎ 8103.

Spanish Eyes Sunday at the Sun
9/7: Midnite Sun. Easy evening. Check shirt, white cords, drinking water. Beautiful eyes. The smoke drove you out into the rain. Give me a call! ☎ 8104.

Inside Stephen
A heart that beats uncontrollably for a blonde boy named Aaron who works at The Cafe. Wondering if dinner and, maybe, cookies and cream ice cream sounds nice. Thought I'd try. ☎ 8105.

Great America
Jim from Marin, hesitated too long and lost you, partner and I thought you were quite attractive and a nice guy too! Maybe this will find you. Call me! ☎ 8106.

Todd at the Kabuki for "Mimic"
8/23, you were with a friend. I was with friends. Me: Chris, 6', 190, black. Please call. ☎ 8107.

Castro Station Sun 9/7
You: tall, faded jeans cut. Me: 5'5", brown hair, glasses, plaid polo—exchanged hellos. Later saw you at Edge. Would like to sing for you better. ☎ 8108.

Davies Med Ctr Sun 9/11 3 PM
You: tall, dark, handsome, red tank top & bike. Me: blond/blue, mustache, shorts. We smiled in elevator & again on Castro. Please call. ☎ 8109.

Full Moon: A Different Light
9/15, 10 PM: Exchange glances in doorway. You: belly's outside GYM's. You: short, dark, handsome, w/compact, well-built body, great smile. Me: bl;br, goatee, 5'6", 140#, red Mexican shirt. Wanna coffee? ☎ 8110.

WS Event Wed 9/10
You: no shirt, faded blue jeans, Swedish looking. Me: boot jeans, w/keys. Out door patio, my quest was on his knees, you put your sexy soft hand on me, my greedy guest moved your hand away—too shy to say sorry, would you like to have dinner w/me? ☎ 8111.

Jack of Oakland
You are 40, hairy, horny, 155, goatee, 5'10". You sound perfect! This time leave your phone number? Box 7930. ☎ 8112.

What's Behind the Smile
Of AM putting bike into white Cabriolet, Franklin St., 9/15, 10PM. Me? GWM, black shirt, goatee, who tried to return the look you gave earlier in locker room. Interest? ☎ 8113.

The Cafe 9/15 You: Cute Blonde
With blonde hair, blue eyes, smiling by chalk board upstairs. I was the Pacific Islander standing in doorway behind you. You with friends, so didn't approach. Would love to meet you. ☎ 8114.

Peter Sat 8/30 Castro Theater
Popcorn line at "Boyfriends": You were there six fifty. Film was not. Care to talk? Eddie? ☎ 8270.

Asian Man at Van Ness Bus Stop
9/25 around 8:30 PM. You were from Denver. I was on my way to gym. We rode bus together, talked about housing costs. Wish we could talk more. Coffee? ☎ 8281.

Loading Dock on Saturday 4/19
You are an extremely handsome white guy with dark hair and a mustache, in full leather! Me: an attractive Asian talking to some old fat guy. Call me!! ☎ 8115.

Dear @ Costco Mon 9/8 7PM
You: poser, shopping with an Asian lady. Me: Asian with glasses, collegiate look. We talked briefly at the checkout counter. Thought you were busy. I was too shy to ask your number. How about a chat? ☎ 8116.

John from N.
Met at windmills Tues. Stripped under full moon. Rimmed you with my tongue from heaven. Let's do it again, Paul. Call me. ☎ 8201.

Kabuki Hot Springs 9/8
You said you had a thing for red heads. I was too shy to talk, then wish I had. Let's connect now. ☎ 8202.

Man from Mars/Hole in the Wall
I liked what I met last Dec., but had difficulties connecting. This earthling still enraptured by your alien charm and thoughts of being abducted and taken to your world. Any possibility? ☎ 8203.

9/17 Castro Pasqua 8:15 PM
You: beige suit, tie, black shoes. Me: green & blue long sleeve polo, glasses & cap sitting outside. As you went in our eyes met. You left & looked back 3 or 4 times to find me smiling. Call me. ☎ 8204.

Converse Street Sept. 10, Wed.
We talked I'm the older guy in glasses. Call me, let's talk again. Too shy to tell you your my type. ☎ 8205.

Folsom SFGMC Booth
Handsome man. Blue eyes, baseball cap, no shirt, shorts. You took a picture with me in black rubber suit. You had small Kodak camera in pocket. Great smile want 2 C more of U. ☎ 8302.

Full Moon: A Different Light
9/15, 10 PM: Exchange glances in doorway. You: belly's outside GYM's. You: short, dark, handsome, w/compact, well-built body, great smile. Me: bl;br, goatee, 5'6", 140#, red Mexican shirt. Wanna coffee? ☎ 8111.

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Bell Market Nov Valley
Sunday 9/23-24 8PM: You were leaving with friend (?). We looked back at each other a couple of times. Would like to meet you if you're interested. ☎ 8207.

On the J Train
During the 8 AM strike. Does nutrition and poli sci mix? Food for thought. Perhaps we can discuss it over coffee. ☎ 8208.

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Popcorn line at "Boyfriends": You were there six fifty. Film was not. Care to talk? Eddie? ☎ 8270.

Asian Man at Van Ness Bus Stop
9/25 around 8:30 PM. You were from Denver. I was on my way to gym. We rode bus together, talked about housing costs. Wish we could talk more. Coffee? ☎ 8281.

Bus Stop 19th & Castro
It was twilight...you got on bus. We waved & shrugged. Let's meet! ☎ 8203.

Asian @ Van Ness/Market 9/24
Me: redhead with a friend getting on the #73 bus. We waved to each other. Call and let's do more! Thought you were real cute. ☎ 8304.

Nice Legs on Market Street?
Thurs. Sept. 18, 7:30 PM: You: blonde hair, San Jose. Me: Clint from Atlanta, you liked my legs. I was mesmerized, didn't give you my number. Thought about you since. S 8305.

Steamworks 9/28 Sunday
Met a older gentleman about 5'5", glassess, white short hair & short beard in room 228. I said come back in 15 mins, you wanted to fuck me!! Well we missed each other. I would love to talk with you soon. Please leave your phone # with area code. ☎ 8306.

Renegades SJ Sept 21 Folsom St.
Followed you home—look off at 7:11. Me: red Mustang. You: blue. Ran into you again at Folsom St. Fair. Got intimidated the first time. Feel real bad. ☎ 8307.

BART 8/25 8 AM
You: cute, wearing black, got on Dally city train. Me: jeans, glasses, bm hair, exchanged smiles on train. You got off at Civic center. Would love to meet you! S 8308.

Converse Street Sept. 10, Wed.
We talked I'm the older guy in glasses. Call me, let's talk again. Too shy to tell you your my type. ☎ 8205.

Folsom SFGMC Booth
Handsome man. Blue eyes, baseball cap, no shirt, shorts. You took a picture with me in black rubber suit. You had small Kodak camera in pocket. Great smile want 2 C more of U. ☎ 8302.

Sleek Young Guy
WM, 42, Mediterranean/Latin looks, 6', 155#, ISO for rom., relationship. Prefer uninhibited straight-aacting men 20-40, around Civic Center/Polk/Tenderloin area, no gay scene, gyms. Smokers OK. ☎ 8126.

Paramedic, Firefighter, Cap Rescue-worker, late 20's-30's, beefy GWM? New to Sonoma Co. Looking for biking, motorcycle, hangout, etc. buddy. Be active, outgoing, w/good sense of humor. ☎ 8217.

GWM + GWM = Passion
Intensely spirited, mature & muscled GB "Man" sks similar GW "Buddy." I'm an attractive, articulate gym devotee, eager to meet a gregarious, HW "Man" w/ample muscle & brain. I like strong men/wstrong personalities. ☎ 8128.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Sincere, Mellow, Educated

Asian, 33, 5'6", 170, HIV+, nice guy,

mostly a home body, out, looking for similiar AM or WM, 28-35 yrs old, for dating leading to long-term monogamy. NS/ND. ☎ 8121.

Are You Good Looking Hot Sex
I'm GWM, 31, 130 lbs, bm hair, goatee. I like leather, dancing, sci-fi, gardening, crafts. I prefer to be a top, but can be versatile. Smart, reserved, I need a good friend-positive long term. ☎ 8129.

Integrity Honesty Loyalty
GWM, 6'1", blond/blue. Smoke (both), drink, Stable, easy-going, professional. Read, cook, play bridge, party, travel, swim, beach, dachshund lover/owner. Opera, Lusty, versatile, Hung +. Describe self/interests. ☎ 8209.

Energetic-Creative-Romantic
"Scene" stealer. Handsome, good-looking, SGWM, brown/bl, 5'11 1/2", tall, 180 lbs, easy-going, unaffected, smoking 20-36yo artistic, SGWM, creative, good-looking, confident, communicative, kind, for dating LTR? ☎ 8210.

Attractive Latino 26
I'm 5'7", 170, muscular, stocky build, student. Prefer to meet Latinos or whites under 35, for friendship possibly more. NS and broad minded, humorous only. ☎ 8211.

Attractive Amerasian
SGWM, 30-45 for dating, possible LTR, me 35, 5'7", 150#, bm/bm. Enjoy movies, theater, opera, Buddhism, massage, quiet times. Filipinos A+. ☎ 8212.

Hopeful Romantic
44yo, 5'11", 185#, dark hair (not much left), dark eyes, fury, in-shape, romantic, masculine, honest, intelligent, bike rides, walking on the beach, hiking, passionate kissing, relationship oriented, HIV+, healthy. ☎ 8213.

Rural Man seeks Soulmate
Lonely, spiritual mid 40's man seeks friend or companion to share mountain top mobile home, 2hrs north of bay area. Me: inexperienced, lonely, outdoors oriented. You: younger, not effeminate, lonely? ☎ 8214.

Thinker seeks Thinker
Determined to heter society, grow intellectually? Extremely bright, introspective, but non-spiritual, non-artis? Insecure, but masculine, communicative? HIV-? Let's meet! Me: teacher, 33, 190#, 6'1", goatee; you: 20-40, med/slim, facial-haired. ☎ 8215.

Where for art thou
Pierced, tattooed, HIV-, bottom, HM, 27, 5'5", 170#, seeks versatile top, 25-35, W/HM for fun, movies, dining, companionship etc. for serious LTR. ☎ 8216.

GBM Masculine & Mature
Wanted by African-American GM, 33, 5'9", dancer, positive. Searching for culturally intact AA man, 30-45+, mentally & physically fit. Sports oriented. Biblical plus. Down to earth. Islanders welcome. ☎ 8217.

Asian Male
Sought by vintage Italian for friendship, romantic interludes. Cuddling, caressing, kissing, leading to that ultimate moment of truth. Someone who enjoys body contact. Travel companion to Miami Beach, March 1998. ☎ 8218.

Visualize Whirled Peas
GWM, 40, 5'8", 160#, 250-400#, HIV+, br;br, beard, hairy, sensitive low voice, romantic, nice, intelligent, seeks well built beefy guy for mutually satisfying stuff. Strong silent type a plus. ☎ 8219.

Japanese Man?
If you've lived awhile in Japan you really appreciate them, culturally and sexually. I'm a youthful 50's GWM, tall and athletic, blond. If you are sensitive and slim, let's talk! ☎ 8218.

Romantic "Getaway"??
This guy would like to meet another man, 20-40, who would enjoy sharing a peaceful country cabin North of Russian River for romantic Sunday retreats or LTR. Tony. ☎ 8219.

Hoping to find Soul Mate
34yo GWM, good looking, searching for friend, lover, mate for LTR. 5'11", 150#, lbs, honest, caring, real. HIV-. ☎ 8220.

Sugar Daddy Seeks Boy 25 to 40
For long-term San Francisco relationship. 8E HIV+, with good energy and intelligence, no smoke, drink, or drugs. Live-in preferred. ☎ 8221.

GWM 5+ yr Substance Free
Hopes to meet soulmate fun loving and compassion at em. 40, 5'9", 170#, work-out, stable, avg looks. ☎ 8222.

Slender, Healthy 5'5"
I like the idea of being committed of having someone to devote myself and time to. Sorry! Not into chubby or bear type guys, thin to lean build only. You must be healthy and in fairly good physical condition. ☎ 8223.

HIV Top ISO Nat-So-Shy Bottom
Fair-haired GM, 39, seeks dark-haired GM, late 20's early 40's, for passionate, romantic, intense relationship. ☎ 8223.

Slender, Healthy 5'10", 160, BIK
I like the idea of being committed of having someone to devote myself and time to. Sorry! Not into chubby or bear type guys, thin to lean build only. You must be healthy and in fairly good physical condition. ☎ 8224.

Bear Hunter Seeks Bear
39, 190 lbs, 5'9", bm, goatee, mustache/bald, intelligent, stable. Seeking butch male, capable of commitment, 30-45 years, affectionate, furry, ND/NS, moderate alcohol okay. ☎ 8225.

Black man Short Dread Beard
170, 6'1", 43, HIV-, sks friends. Me: musician/percussion teacher, programmer for radio station, masseur & gardener. Live in a cabin in Mendocino county. Visit Bay area occasionally. Into spiritual practices, vegetarianism & very simple living. Not Iking 4 sex buddy. ☎ 8330.

Attractive Latino
Good looking Latino, 32, 5'7", 150#, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, looking for GWM between 27-37, for friendship or more. Like to go to movies, biking, dining, doing art. Just call. ☎ 8331.

SEEKING ADVENTURE
Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Ass massage—erotic spanking. Me: athletic, top, GWM, 47, 6'5", 250, football player's build. You: athletic, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate hair/hair/nice buns. Good kisser plus. ☎ 8130.

Gym Bottoms Into Average Joe?
W/M, 40, HIV-, seeking dominant verbal/imaginative sex. Very muscular bodybuilder exhibitionist bottom, HIV-, into taking orders showing off, giving head, taking dildos and more, at your place. ☎ 8131.

Undignified, Maybe, But
Sucking you off is the best way to get a big load. Lemme demonstrate how really good cock sucking maximizes your load, pleasing us both! ☎ 8132.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/a big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 8133.

Black Top Wanted
With nice pole to fuck my hole in Oakland. White guy, 6 ft, 160#, safe. ☎ 8134.

Teddy Bear

Wouldn't you love to have a Teddy Bear to sleep with this winter? Me: G&M, prof, top, 40s, ISO LTR. You: GWM, 50ish, bottom, under 6ft, no beard. Lt smoke/drink OK. Let's talk. ☎ 8314.

Hungry For True Love & Romance
Asian artist, 5'0", 140#, 35yo, very sexy & healthy, slim. Enjoy theater, music, movies, any kind of sports. Seeking GWM, 50-60ys, big heart, honest, lot of humor. Serious. Only PIs Thanks. Gray hair A+ looks not important. ☎ 8315.

Loving Dad Seeks Loving Son
Attr, young-looking, mature GWM, 74, 5'8", 165, seeks romantic sexual on going times with gdking, under 40, boy. Am open to a LTR. ☎ 8316.

Mature FF Btm
Seeks FF connection with loving but dominant bald/buzz cut, facial hair FF top only, for bonding, intimacy. Serious only—not looking for sex only partners. ☎ 8317.

Submit to Daddy
Handsome GWM bodybuilder, 6', 190#, 40+; varied interests ISO submissive regular GWM under 50 who likes to please Daddy & interested in monogamous LTR. Honesty & sincerity a must. ☎ 8318.

Love & Romance in Walnut Creek
Attr, 35, 5'7", 145, good shape, nice smile, easy-going, ISO happy, good-looking partner. My wild oats are sown. Now I want to plant one on you—Only you! ☎ 8319.

Masculine Mexican Wanted
Slender, muscular, boyish 40 year old GWM, blue eyes, brown hair, gentle, professional singer, new to west—no drugs, bars. ISO masculine, Mexican, top, 31-45, for passion, romance—LTR. ☎ 8320.

Cute Latin Lkg 4 Blonde Lover
My partner GWM, 26, 5'8", 150#, not into scene. Us blonde GWM, 25-35yo, 5'8", 6', 150-180#, c/c top, NS/ND, into movies, beach, cuddling. European A+. ☎ 8321.

HIV+ Daddy Seeks Same
GWM, 60, 6'2", 180+, hung, smooth, good body, bottom. Seeks very masc., top, 40-60, easy going, enjoys life. Now visiting SF but live in Hawaii. ☎ 8322.

A Grandfather Turning Sixty
in October Imagine that! Seeking kind grandfather of any age. ☎ 8323.

Mediterranean Type
Creatively intelligent fair complexioned, seeks friend(ship) romantic. Any age. Enjoy nature, ethnic foods, G. G. Park, biking. Entrepreneur—have time. Healthy. ☎ 8324.

Attractive Latin

GWM, 24, 5'8", 160 lbs, enjoy working out. Exotic dancer, very straight action ISO GWM/GLM, 28-40, similar interests. ☎ 8325.

Asian Connection
Attractive, well-built, GWM, 32, 5'9", 170#, seeks in shape, 30-40, for friendship/possible relationship. NS, non-alcohol. ☎ 8326.

It's a Good Thing
ISO tall, good-looking, nice-built, romantic, great kisser. Adventurous GWM, 30's, 5'11", 165#, for fun, relationship & watching Martha Stewart in bed on Sundays! ☎ 8327.

GBM HIV+ ISO GWM Master
GWM, 36, 5'8", masculine, bottom ISO dominant top, 30-45, height/weight proportionate. Master should be firm, yet caring A+ for cleanliness. ☎ 8328.

Ivy寻求 ebony
Handsome GWM, tall, lean and muscular build, 40, top, out going, dreaming of well-built Black or Latino man for companionship and wild loving. ☎ 8329.

Black man Short Dread Beard
170, 6'1", 43, HIV-, sks friends. Me: musician/percussion teacher, programmer for radio station, masseur & gardener. Live in a cabin in Mendocino county. Visit Bay area occasionally. Into spiritual practices, vegetarianism & very simple living. Not Iking 4 sex buddy. ☎ 8330.

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Good Looking Latino, 32, 5'7", 150#, HIV+, nice smile, good body, bottom, good hair/hair/nice buns. Good kisser plus. ☎ 8130.

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Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/a big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 8133.

Black Top Wanted
With nice pole to fuck my hole in Oakland. White guy, 6 ft, 160#, safe. ☎ 8134.

Earthly Goods to Share

Have wheels, country acreage with cabin, and G.A.I will share with the right masculine "take charge" partner in exchange for knowledge raising rabbits, winter gardening skills etc. Ric. # 8135.

Hung GWM Daddy HIV-

ISO Asian boy for friendship and hot times. Prefer East Bay but can travel. Safe NS/ND. # 8136.

Palo Alto Asian Cockslucker

Seeks men under 45 with 7 inches to suck off with no reciprocation. Mid-Peninsula area preferred and within hours of 4AM to 1PM. # 8137.

Deep Probe

Large probes needed for deep inner spaces; 2 immediate openings available. Apply within handsome, tall, blond, bottom. Complete accommodations guaranteed for all qualified applicants. A trip to remember! # 8138.

ISO In-Shape Top

Good looking GWM, 35yo, 5'10", 170#, masculine, gym-toned, bony/bm, hung, bottom ISO good looking in-shape top for safe sex & a good time between 21-40. # 8139.

Hot Nasty Boys Only

For extended sessions or ass play. U8: 25-35yo, GWM/GLM, good shape & love tank it! Me: GWM, 40yo, good shape, 5'6", 145 lbs. No BS/no attitude. # 8140.

Need It Bad

GBM, 37, 200 lbs, hairy, who's a bottom. Seeking a easy going, spontaneous top with a stable personality, who likes have fun. # 8141.

Get Spanked

31yo, GWM, 6'3", br;br, 195#, good shape, good looking. You are under 32, good looking, good shape, bubble butt. Wear your tightest jeans & get over my knee! # 8142.

Husky Hairy Guys Turn Me On!!

Like TT, enemas, rimming, dildos, FF, sucking dick, WS, kissing? I do, GBM, 200 lbs., healthy HIV+. Like HIV+ GWM & GLM w/facial hair. 36yo's to 50+, any race. # 8144.

Do Giant Black Cocks Exist?

WM, 29, 6', 210, bm/blu, seeks first experience with horse hung 8M. I've heard about them but I haven't seen any. # 8145.

Loose, Open Buttholes!

Love to kiss, fuck, suck, eat, finger, fist. Into any of above, call me. # 8146.

Asian Sks GWM Bottom

Chinese, 25, 5'7", 130#, smooth & slender seeks GWM bottom under 45. Mature prefer chubby but not fat. HIV-. Safe sex only. # 8147.

Asian Muscle

Good looking Asian, 5'9", 175#, muscular, early 30's, seeks beefy guys for JO, body worship, group scenes, and sale fun. # 8148.

Wanted Sadistic Top

Make this 37 year old, shaved-head, boy-man your sex slave and torture subject. You: sadistic, hung, enjoy giving pain and rewarding good service with TT, CBT, piss. # 8149.

Very Defined Abs

You: 25-35 yrs, want to muscular, very defined abdominal, likes fucking, top or bottom. Me: 6', 185#, 38#, muscular, prefers top fuck role but will go down if you're a top. # 8150.

Spread Your Cheeks

For my hot, wet, talented tongue dancing in & out of your hot, clean, butt by handsome Italian stud, 44, 6', 195, goatee in Castro. Late night 12-5AM. # 8151.

East Bay Kink

HIV+, rimming, pig butt ISO raged men for mutual FF, WS. Big holes, big toys, big wrists, seriously pits a plus. Let's hand ball. # 8152.

Rock Bottom

Hot WM, 30's, with buns of Doom. Tight muscular body. Looking for sex pot for man to man action. Serious only pls. # 8153.

Aussie Action

WM, 30, looking to meet hot Australian for uninhibited man sex with muscular versatile local guy. Be hot. # 8154.

Looking for Mr. Ebony

GWM, 44 years old, though most people assume that I look younger, like 30's, 6', 146#, blue/brown, goatee, gym-toned, top and HIV- seeking 8M, 21-40, bottom, slim-build to average, masculine for hot times. # 8155.

Work Your Tight Bubble-Butt

ISO intense, strong men any age. Spread em wide! Sensual touch, tongue, finger, fuck. Me: 5'11", 184 musc lbs, 43, gulg, HIV+. # 8156.

GWM + ISO GWM + Top

Healthy, HIV+, GWM, ISO GWM top to service. 185', 6', smooth. Tell me how want me to take it. # 8157.

This Top's for You

Jin, a serious black top; 39, 170 lbs., 6', 9"-. Wants a hot, wet hole to fuck. You: sexy GWM or Latino. Lean, trim, mask and ready—then let's do it. # 8158.

Love to Fuck & You're Serious

And you want ass that's hot, wet, ready & takes it. Sexy GWM, 39, lean trim, mask, goatee. You: ht/wt prop, mask & ready to fuck now! # 8159.

Daddy ISO Dick Lover

Yng GWM, 18, 25, apply for position as dick lover. Can handle my huge tool. # 8242.

Celebrate the Body Erotic

Mod hairy, long-haired body Electric grad, 42, 5'10", 170 seeks brothers & kindred spirits for going massage exchange, friendship, support, sensual erotic exploration & heart-felt pleasure & play. # 8160.

GWM Foster City Area Seeking

Weekday fun HIV+, tall, masculine, 43, attractive, need ongoing discreet pal for non-relationship erotic meetings. Enjoy JO, tit play, fantasies, verbal, nasty. Interested? # 8161.

Total Bottom

Not big, not men 8" or bigger. 35-55 yrs who are serious & love to fuck. Less than 8" will be turned away! I have hot mouth & light hairy balls. Love to be fucked your way. I'm discrete & submissive. Slim, short in very good shape & cute too. # 8162.

Wanna Fuck Kenny Rogers?

Me: mustache, no beard, same body, hairy, HIV-, cut, 41, hazel eyes, 6'235, never anal (3 times) will fit on my back for the right man. Age/race unimportant. Mustache, uncut, Latino A+. # 8163.

Sleazy, Casual Sex?

Let's get together! WM, 41, bearish, love to suck (will get fucked for the right man), HIV-, hairy; looking for fuck/buddy under 50, any race. # 8164.

Massage Wanted

By handsome, athletic, smooth, friendly, Asian male. From experienced masseurs. Enjoy full body complete firm oil massages. # 8165.

October's Forecast: Hot!

I'm a good-looking, fun & friendly GWM who wants to meet a young, horny, masculine, Chinese for socializing, night clubbing, and steamy safe sex. # 8226.

Bend Over—I'll Drive

Big dick Italian top wants to "plug-up" every hole in your body. Looking for a masculine, hard body eager to please bottom. # 8227.

Woof! Looking for Hirsute Time

Like TT, enemas, rimming, dildos, FF, sucking dick, WS, kissing? I do, GWM, 200 lbs., healthy HIV+. Like HIV+ GWM & GLM w/facial hair. 36yo's to 50+, any race! # 8144.

Lieu of Lotsa Stipulations:

A. I suck good. B. You shoot lots. # 8229.

Leather Couple ISO Vers. Tops

1. I suck your (rock hard) dick real good. 2. You shoot your max. # 8231.

Are You Ready to get it in?

Want to work your butt & mouth with 8 hard inchies? Are you a hot bottom looking for a sexy—handsome top? Leave me the details! # 8232.

Hot Black Man 40ish Ex-marine

Seeks mature man, uncut, but any size, race welcome. Must be 60+. # 8233.

Sexy Italian Sks Playmate

GWM, 42, 5'10", 200#, br (bald), br, hairy, beard, topless in LTR. Skis discreet GWM in similar situation. Hairy & Vars. A+. 57 only. # 8236.

Southern Oregon Master 66

Requires service of slave free to relocate financial independent to serve Master. Age and race unimportant. HIV+, physical disability OK, but must be able to serve. # 8234.

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Penn. Your body or mine. Me: 58yrs, GWM, 135#, 5'6", smooth, muscular, gym toned. CBT, TT. You any age, size, race. # 8235.

Daylight Delight!

Versatile, good-looking bottom, 37/6'2"/195#, bushy butt & deep throat for your deepest satisfaction. US. HIV+, hairy, horny & fun guys! Under 50, decent shape. Don't wait—enjoy now! # 8244.

Hung??

So deep, so sweet, my lips & throat working your big meat. My tight bubble butt is ready too, my legs spread wide to satisfy it. Hey blonde bottom. 37/6'2"/195#. # 8243.

Surrender to Pleasure

GWM, seeks horny GM who enjoys being jacked off by another guy; Object; sensation, stimulus, fun, pleasure, climax, and content men +. I'm 51, 5'8", 175 lbs., bear, HIV-. # 8241.

East Bay HIV+ Only

Versatile, attractive, healthy, short, olive complexion, clean and available weekday M-F. Seeks mutual cock sucking & possible anal play. Age, ethnicity unimportant. # 8233.

It Might As Well Be Springtime

Ready & primed to meet new friends for fun and frolic. Retired 4 yrs, 37, bm/bz, +GWM. Tall, slim, handsome. Seeks someone who enjoys low-budget travel, out door activities, + daytrips. Easy-going, healthy, and solid. Take a chance. # 8340.

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38yo Asian ckscr. U8: 7 inches or more, prefer daytime M-F, anytime wknd. # 8342.

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Long thin and stiff preferred. 8lond boy hole licked too. Late thirties, nice build, blond, long hair + preferred. # 8247.

Short White Boy Sks Tall Black Dad

Mildly out of shape, cute lean boy toy, 5'6", 140, seeks serious Black Dad to train me through motivation, manipulation, use, abuse, praise and humiliation. Please sir, train me to be your best boy, sir. # 8248.

Kick Back

Mildly out of shape, cute lean boy toy, 5'6", 140, seeks serious Black Dad to train me through motivation, manipulation, use, abuse, praise and humiliation. Please sir, train me to be your best boy, sir. # 8248.

East Daddy ISO

Submissive boys or men, 18-25, who enjoy sucking and getting fucked by a rock hard cock with hours of staying power. HIV-. # 8250.

Just Shut-up and Ride!

WM, 32, 5'10", 200 lbs., blond hair/blue eyed muscle hunk (48" ch", 32" w, 18" arms) wants good-looking and masculine men to pump me—anytime. # 8251.

Seeking Big Dicked JO Buddies

Let's show off our proud cocks to each other in a non-judgmental, no come-ons, no sex talk, no pressure environment. # 8252.

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Seeks handsome, youthful, steady companion for evening passion, fin dining, cultural adventures—Must be uninhibited, in-shape, aggressive, versatile bottom. Stipend available. I'm 40, good-looking, in shape, professional. # 8253.

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Small, smooth, slender, sexy, unconventional cutie pirate boy, 33, with boots, muscled legs, long hair, hairy butt. 280, hot butt, surrenders to slender, safe, horny, hung, rock-hard tops, 18-40. # 8237.

Wanted: Good Sex

GWM, 40, 195 lbs, and HIV+, seeks Black, Asian, or Hispanic men for good sex. I like oral, anal, and good foreplay. Must be positive, 20-35 yrs, old, and good-looking. Fuck me, Boy! # 8238.

Want to Ride a Big Bear Butt?

Me: Cauc., daddy, Daddy Bear, 5'6", 280, with horny, hungry butt. You: under 45 yrs, trim to bulky outer, face hair, insatiable. Fuck me, Boy! # 8239.

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45, needs to receive expert in-home deep throat service at 6AM, weekdays. Serious experts (with mustache) only please. No indirect (cell, bpr, pg) phone #s. # 8230.

I Wanna Suck Your Ass...

Italian stud whore, 44, 6', 190#, goatee, rugged build, wants to bury my tongue up your hot, clean, beat. Late night Castro sex. Fri-Mon, 12-5AM. # 8240.

Looking for Mr. Horrible

GWM, 45 yo, 6', 147#, blue/brown, gym-toned, slim-build, masculine, goatee, top and HIV-. Interested in meeting Latin males, 21-45, muscular, slender, to average and bottom for hot times, no fms/flakes please. # 8254.

Hung??

So deep, so sweet, my lips & throat working your big meat. My tight bubble butt is ready too, my legs spread wide to satisfy it. Hey blonde bottom. 37/6'2"/195#. # 8243.

East Bay HIV+ Only

Versatile, attractive, healthy, short, olive complexion, clean and available weekday M-F. Seeks mutual cock sucking & possible anal play. Age, ethnicity unimportant. # 8233.

It Might As Well Be Springtime

Ready & primed to meet new friends for fun and frolic. Retired 4 yrs, 37, bm/bz, +GWM. Tall, slim, handsome. Seeks someone who enjoys low-budget travel, out door activities, + daytrips. Easy-going, healthy, and solid. Take a chance. # 8340.

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Attractive Professional

GWM, 47, 5'7", 155, in shape, HIV-, seeking younger buddy for movies, arts, weekends a way. Fun time in & out of bed. # 8235.

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U top, HIV+, aggressive, demanding, ready 4 service. Me: 36, hairy, healthy & willing. Love it on all fours. # 8236.

Stud Boy Wanted

If you're young, smooth, 18-35, bottom. Me: young Daddy, blond, 6', 160, 5'9", 250 lbs, seek ya stud boy. 3 times cool. Let's do it! # 8237.

Leather Top ISO Trim Boy-Slave

GWM, 48, 160#, will train very submissive boy in bondage, bootlicking and obedience. You will spend time hooded, gagged and plugged. Hairless and pierced a plus. # 8172.

Asshole Exam by Dr. Prober

WM in 50's, ISO LM or LM, thin, under 44, who wants their as looked at & tended to. Prostitutes massaged as a dicks, balls & nipples. My office. # 8173.

Former Top Wants to Switch

GAM, 33, good looking, athletic, smooth, HIV+, bubble butt, seeking attractive, demanding top, man enough to handle control, force me to submit; spanking, BM, SM, other kink, hung A+. # 8174.

Piss on Me Baby

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Butt Open Mouth Open Bottom

Ties & toys, dildos, blindsfold, list all else works. Use me for pleasure. Wide open to everything. # 8253.

Crutches

Older GW into scenes with younger GM involving crutches, canes, or wheelchair. # 8355.

Mutual Ass Exploration

As play, light spanking. Let's play with each other's butts and get off—JO or suck. Me attrac, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250 lbs., football player's build. You attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth, moderate body hair, nice butt. # 8352.

Butt Open Mouth Open Bottom

Ties & toys, dildos, blindsfold, list all else works. Use me for pleasure. Wide open to everything. # 8253.

Asshole Service

You on rim seat watching videos. Butt toys optional. Me: 46, 160, 5'11", masc., attr, HIV-. # 8355.

Tow Dude

Tow truck driver, hooded, 28 yrs, skin-masked skinned in South Bay areas head to Choles, didn't know where jacket. Ben Davis, goatee, tats, hot mouth. Can travel. # 8266.

It's for Tied!

Slave master experienced in bondage and S&M. Early 40's, masculine, good looks. Discretion requested and reciprocated. # 8255.

Erotic Slave

Slave master experienced in bondage and S&M. Early 40's, masculine, good looks. Discretion requested and reciprocated. # 8255.

Black White Boys Skins Tall Black Dad

Short, tall, ebony, hairy, 6', 165#, 180#, work out occasionally. Same but older, hung and mean. Push me around, beat on me, use abuse. # 8

QTV hosts 2nd anniversary feast

by Mark Mardon

It's easy to complain about too few gays and lesbians appearing on television, but it's expensive to guarantee they're seen each week. In fact, it costs \$1,500 a month just in air time. That's how much the producers of QTV must shell out each month to bring viewers the city's only weekly, hour-long, commercial gay and lesbian TV show. Add to that the cost of Beta cameras and full editing equipment, and you've got a hefty tab to pick up. That's why

open the door for gay, lesbian, and gay-friendly merchants and corporations to look at gay TV, specifically QTV, as a vehicle to enjoy and sell their products."

For a ticket price of \$30 (\$50 for a pair), fans of QTV can mingle with the entire 20-person QTV staff, and with such luminaries as Mayor Willie Brown and Assemblywoman Carole Migden. They'll be tipping back glasses and toasting the future of queer television Thursday at the Coconut Grove Supper Club, 1415 Van Ness, between Bush and Pine Streets. Partygoers can feel doubly

"We are community driven, very different from PBS."

QTV executive producer Rahn Fudge wants to see heavy attendance at his program's 2nd Anniversary Party Thursday, Oct. 9, to help finance the continued airing of the show.

Currently seen Tuesday nights in San Francisco, from 7-8 p.m. on cable channel 47, QTV is a television news-and-entertainment "magazine" by and about queers that aims to "openly tell the world who we are." Fudge describes his show as "the primary vision and voice of the Bay Area's gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender community."

"We are commercially and community driven, very different than public access or PBS," says Fudge. "We are determined to

satisfy knowing their ticket purchases will not only help support QTV broadcasting, but also to help benefit, in part, both The Names Project and City College's Gay and Lesbian Studies Program.

In addition to the usual cocktails and speech-making, celebration organizers promise "first-class entertainment, delectable cuisine, a raffle and auction featuring celebrity souvenirs and gift certificates from community merchants, and a cake-cutting ceremony at midnight."

"Our next goal at QTV is to expand into the Los Angeles market," says Fudge. "We want QTV to become the main gay and lesbian TV show on the West Coast." ▼



QTV San Francisco producers and hosts Liam Maychem, Jennifer Louie, and Rahn Fudge.

Out There

◀ page 35

made its way into his public life and works." According to Tursi, the author's approach "pronounces much of *Leaves of Grass* to be a 'cruiser's apologia,' a road map to a 'life of the closet' wholly defined by sexuality."

In closing, Tursi wrote, "Whitman sang of human nature uninhibited in all its manifestations, not simply of carnality unleashed. He chides us still: 'O I say these are not the parts and poems of the body only, but of the soul.'"

Icons and neocons

A while back we quoted an article by Michael Warner in *The Nation* that decried the banality of

contemporary queer culture, how everything we say and do stinks of "normalization and the end of politics." Among the targets Warner aimed at were a handful of queer scribes who, according to him, are clogging up queer discourse with neoconservative blather that is reversing the legacies of the gay movement — "its democratic conception of activism, its goal of political mobilization, its resistance to the regulation of sex, and its aspiration to a queer world." Warner's list of prime suspects in this dumbing down of queerdome included Michelangelo Signorile, Gabriel Rotello, Bruce Bawer, Andrew Sullivan, Daniel Mendelsohn, and *Out* magazine editor Sarah Pettit, whose publication, Warner suggested, panders to the modern homosexual hunger for anti-intellectualism and passive consumerism.

Last week, *The Nation* published responses by several of the aforementioned writers, letters-to-the-editor so contentious they give the lie to Warner's notion that the post-political age is upon us. Yet, if this is the level to which political discourse has sunk, who can blame those who hunger to escape it? How about a few ideas, folks? Almost all the written responses from these supposed cultural wizards were knee-jerk reactions to being labeled neocons, an

expression that has assumed so many meanings in recent years it is fast becoming meaningless. Mr. Signorile's letter was essentially a laundry list of his liberal credentials: it was he who "co-founded Queer Nation" and he who "almost single-handedly created the firestorm over outing." Likewise Mr. Mendelsohn, who said he wouldn't enumerate his radical milestones, but then proceeded to do so. Ms. Pettit's correspondence listed queer theorists and academics whose names have appeared in her magazine, thus countering charges that *Out* only caters to Sullivan, Bawer, Rotello, et al, but her own admission that *Out's* goal is to "keep people guessing" sounded like strategy-speak where one wanted intellectual curiosity.

Rotello's response was the strongest because he engaged Warner's idea of neoconservatism head on. "Apparently, since the idea of sex without consequence plays such a large role in so much of queer theory, this has left Warner and Co. in a bind. So instead of grappling with the epidemiological message — a debate I would welcome — Warner simply declares the messenger a 'neocon' and thinks he can call it a day." Doubtless this discussion will continue, but at least Rotello proves he has the chops to enter into it. ▼

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Metropolis

by Glen Helfand

There actually is some gay culture beyond cyber-smut on the Internet, and the impressive SF-based **Queer Arts Resource** (<http://www.queer-arts.org>) was out to prove it last Saturday at a launch party for their fall programs at the cozy Internet Alfreido offices at Seventh at Brannan. The gracious, name-tag-wearing hosts escorted the guests, a good mix of wine-sipping art lovers, gym bunnies, and cybernerds, to computer terminals tuned in to QAR's hefty virtual exhibitions, which include paintings by Catholic, guilt-ridden Mexican artist **Nahum B. Zenil**, interactive digital works by SF's own **Rudy Lemcke** (who was in attendance), and an interview with **Robert Giard**, whose portraits of gay and lesbian artists are currently on display at the New Main Library. Actual chatter, however, seemed to outweigh surfing at the event — "I'll look at the site at home," was the recurring refrain. A reporter from *Artweek* was there interviewing people about the difference between a virtual art opening and a real one. My response was that the real one has snacks.

Among the guests at Saturday's confab was queer art historian **Jonathan Katz**, who lends the website a lengthy essay on queer clues in Robert Rauschenberg's art and current Guggenheim retrospective. Katz energetically recounted his experiences at the Guggenheim's press preview in New York two weeks ago. Seems he, unlike other members of the press, was required to submit questions to the curators in advance. Katz was so incensed by the museum's willingness to appease Rauschenberg's demands to erase gay references from the show's catalogue, that he's currently writing an expose on the topic for a forthcoming issue of *Out* magazine. You can preview the material now at QAR. ▼

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Pec & Nipple Ecstasy 773-9130 Kory

Italian Stud, Black hair, Brn eyes, 6ft, Swimmer's build, defined chest & legs, Bedroom eyes, Beautiful ass, 8" uncut. Outcalls Pref/Hotels

Gino, 22 Model looks Hourly/All night

Don't you want it now! 436-0402 VM

Spank & Paddle & Belt Your Butt

Kory 773-9130 I/O 24H Discreet Guy

Clean-cut Grad Student,

155, Brown/Blue,
Smooth, Lean, Muscular Body
Very Cute, Very Versatile.

Call Jason 24 hrs 541-5002

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6', 150 lbs. Thick jet-black hair. Long eyelashes, defined lean toned chest, beautiful sexy, yummy ass, twin mounds of pleasure! Affectionate, passionate exclusive, classy model looks serious, generous, discriminating clients. Hourly and overnight rates. Hotels. SF Based Nick 731-4168

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Blk/Blu

Clean-cut Muscle Hunk

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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

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\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

Young, great staying power 986-8848

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9X7 - Creative, nasty fantasy man

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JUST MOVED TO TOWN

22, 6', 150 LBS.

CUTE, SMOOTH, FRIENDLY

PGR 605-9016

MODELS/ESCORTS

P-A-O-L-O
Out Call Only **376-8102**

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22 yrs, 5'7", 235 lbs, 19 arm
50 ch., 32 wst. Call Pete
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WAYNE 252-7443

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26, 6'2", 175 LBS.,
Fun & Sweet 9X6 uncut
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feast. Young 20. Call 313-4850

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For handsome, hot jock with thick 9"
Out calls • 405-9669 • Mike

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Professional 28yo, 6'2"
Discreet
STRICTLY TOP \$150
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35yr, 5'9", 140 lbs, 30" w, 9x7, No BS
RANDY 582-9395 • 24HRS

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French Apache Spanish
Exotic mix. Call 313-4850

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B/B BOTTOM
\$120 In \$130 Out
Derrick VM/Pgr 313-7127

BLUE COLLAR JACK
Hung, handsome, athletic guy with a
big juicy bone, Pgr 207-5315

TALL SLIM COLLEGIATE
LOOK
Shaved in the right places.
6'1", 145, 30" w, 24, 8"
Friendly, discreet, educated.
Page Mitch: 202-1130

YOUNG MUSCULAR ITALIAN
COLLEGE JACK
Solid build, 5'9", br/gr, 8" cut
Muscle ass, deep throat. 415-739-7312

Hot Asian Page 708-0432

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10 INCHES 6
(415) 487-0BOY (6269)

175 lbs., 6 ft, Cute, Top, In/Out
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Strip show/true fantasies, all Bay Hiu
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27, 6', 160, hung big & thick, top

UNCUT SKINHEAD
888-990-4330 Anytime

BLACK JOCK
Div 1 College football player
5'11", 190 lbs, 23, totally muscular
Gorgeous face/body \$100 208-0434

FISTERAUMA
Redemption full length working stiff
pig play & many more. Jared Clark

6 ft, 190 lbs., shaved head, grt lk, grt
bod, grt hands 4 hungry butts. \$100
In \$150 Out 708-6091 pgr

PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

SUPER-THICK UNCUT TOP

MASCULINE LATIN,
CLEAN-CUT, ATHLETIC
BUILT GOODLOOKING-
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25yo - 6'3" - 260 lbs.
Very masculine
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Damion 679-1684

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6'2.5"/ V. Attractive/ 180lbs.
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9.5" x 6.5" 415-267-6944

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E42

BLK PORNSTAR 841-6294

Ty Lattimore Hot Young Top Hung

E41

EROTIC MASSAGE

Ultimate touch by muscular boy
Out only 24 Hrs. Call Jeff 314-9586

E41

Sexy, Versatile, 21yo, 170lbs, 6'

EXPERIENCE EXTASY

X-pert service, Jay 764-7959

E41

CUTE AS FK**

26yo, Tight build, hung top,
Slender physique
"Clean cut-cut"
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In/Out Joey 752-3844 Hm

E41

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The expert-5yr experience!

Put Dungeon SJS RBR sleep sack-Hoods-Gags-chains-whips-SM-BD

Prolonged scenes-4hrs to 48 hours

48yo husky biker, full beard

MASTER JACK 415-270-8290

E41

27yo, 5'7", 140, Ton 412-7261

ASIAN MASTER

E42

WS verbal abuse, flogging, leather,

muscle Dad w/big meat. Pgr 538-9588

E41

Hot throbbing always ready 582-2889

ASIAN HARD-ON

E43

J/O strip show tall, lean, smooth, hot,

Hot jock! \$40/60 Matt 441-9198

E42

Top Stud: true 10" uncot & X-thick

...and I know how to use it)....

Hot lean muscular body. 5'11"/160#

also: "complete" erotic massage \$60

560-7081: IN/OUT (SF)

E41

10 1/2 INCHES 10 1/2 INCHES

I'm a 6'2", 220 lb, muscular jock.

22yo with a thick forever hard tool of

pleasure ready 4-U. 24hrs. Stop play-

w/wanna be's and come play

w/the gods. Socrates 510-892-7034

E41

White-Hot/32yo 6' 190/Shaved Head**THICK MUSCLES**

Cocksure/Affectionate/Aggressive

Mature & heavy welcome. Out only.

Luke Pgr: 415-201-6533

E41

BIG FKIN BEAR**

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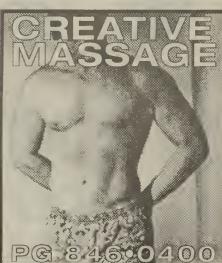
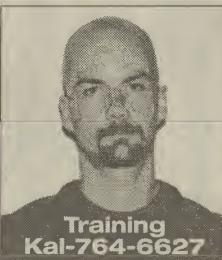
Hung Hot 6'1", 230# Pgr 313-9946

E41

HOT TOUGH TOP

DOMINANT LEATHERMAN,
BONDAGE, SM, WS, CBT,
F/F, FETISH, ALL
FANTASIES 38yo, 6'1",
200#, MARINE LOOKING,
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UNCUT. BEGINNER TO ?
HAVE EQUIPEMENT AND
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Hot S/M stud who is rough, raw, ready,
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8.5 inches. Hardcore stud top \$90

In/Out Welcome. Sisco 861-SEXX

E41

6'3" 215# FIREMAN

28, Masc/musc & XXhandsome, no dis-
appointments. 35+ only cuts 679-3168

E41

10X6 CUT

6ft, Ger-Ital., 185 lbs, br hr, br eyes,
tanned swimmer's build. Out only. Daniel

Pgr (415) 538-9587 VM (707) 939-6963

E41

MAN WITH A FIST-TOYS

Need a helping hand? Slow* Easy* Firm
I'm great with beginners thru advanced.
Give it up to Nikos 885-1471 Nob Hill

E44

LATIN STYLE

Horny, hung 8" thick-nice ass
Masc. gdlkg, sexy, 5'8", 160#
Top/Vers. Call Paul 510-781-9738 Pgr

E42

Tall, lean, handsome w/8"

Curved to fit your throat

Long endurance. 764-6627

E41

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Beautiful Blue Eyed ManBoy Hot 28

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E41

19yo slim, smooth, boishy body

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I also kick back for service.

What's your fantasy? Andy 708-5388

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5'11"/Hairy 47c/16a/31w/185/hung/
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All Butplay scenes

E41

Erotic, Sensual, Smart, Willing

EAGER BLOND BOY

Energetic, 22 yrs, 8 inches cut

Have me now. Jeremy 210-0047

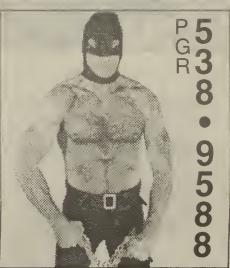
E41

FRENCH MARINE

Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.

New in town from
Paris, France

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Wants 2 force U2 your knees. 2 consume
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170#, 30yo, attract top muscle-stud
C43/W29/A17/Q25 No Drug/Rushed jobs.
Domini expert 100 Robert 829-7595 out.

E44

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on a handsome friendly stud. When
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know how! Pgr 207-6786

E41

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& fantasies. Call 24hrs. 415-431-6253

E41

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10" X 6" UNCUT

Big Fat Tool 487-9566 pgr 678-1005

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Sexy, friendly, muscled top. I'm 28
with a hard, defined gymnast's body,
broad shoulders, great chest, popping
biceps, handsome face, 8 hard sweet
inches offering hot, sensual, intimate
times with respect and no attitude.

\$120 Jeff 679-8487, VM/Pgr

E42

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E42

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E41

CUTE 24YR OLD

5'8", brown/brown, 140 lbs, smooth,
clean cut, call Chad at 241-9381

E41

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tom, hung. Older men welcome. \$50

Donald 351-2034

E41

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E41

Better than Valium! 715-6410 Brad

Young Hung Drug-Free Duds

E41

HOT HANDSOME LATIN

New to city. 5'9", 160 pounds, 24
years old, black hair, brown eyes,
very sexy. Call Patrick for your plea-
sure. Pager (415) 207-1923

E41

EROTIC

21 yr old boy, swimmer's build Chis-
eled face, olive complexion, 6ft, De-
fined chest & legs, 8" thick uncut

Beautiful yummy ass! 150 lbs. Black

hair, brn eyes, Outcalls/Hotels Rex

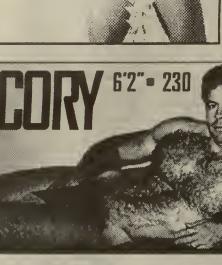
731-4168 Serious, generous callers
only. Hourly/All night.

E41

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WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
TAKING HIS TIME. TALL &
BUILT. FULL PLAYROOM.

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PERSONALS

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6'4", 192 lbs, 7% bodyfat
Friendly discreet mature masculine
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HOTTEST TOP IN TOWN!
Call me up. 648-0119

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The Face of an Angel
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Avail eve & weekends 6', dark blnd, blu, 175, muscular, vers, top or bottom, very goodlooking & friendly. Pager 415-538-9589 Calvin Castro

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HARD 10" UNCUT/XTHICK
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Uncut, smooth body, beautiful face
And great personality. Pgr 679-8843

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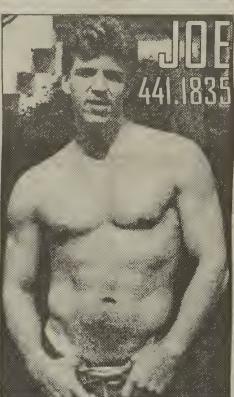
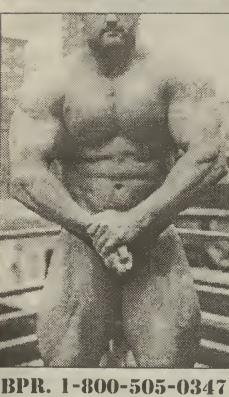
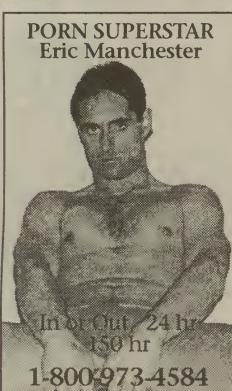
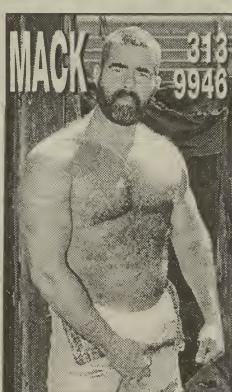
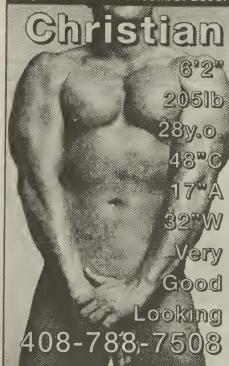
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